



**Encroachment Permit
Application**
for Draining Pool and/or Spa to Sewer
or Storm Drain System

Submit application with \$28 fee to Engineering Division at City Hall, 4381 Broadway, Suite 201 American Canyon, CA 94503. For information, call Public Works at (707) 647-4576.

Name of applicant: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Date of discharge: _____ Pool Spa Backwash

Ideally, only rain goes down the drain. Discharging to the sanitary sewer system is preferred.

For Sanitary Sewer System
discharge of pool, spa and/or backwash:

For Storm Drain System
discharge of pool and/or spa:

- Dechlorination method:

- Location of clean-out or indoor drain:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant notified
- pH test between 6 and 9
- Pump capacity less than 20 gpm

- Dechlorination method:

- Location of storm drain inlet:

- No discharge of filter, media, acid or algaecide cleaning waste
- pH test between 6 and 9
- Pump capacity less than 20 gpm
- No flooding of adjacent property or street

FOR CITY USE

Application approved by: _____

Permit issued by _____ Date _____

Permit expiration date: _____

What's wrong with draining my spa, pool, or filter backwash to the street or storm drain?

Storm drains lead to streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes. Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in pool water are toxic to fish and aquatic life. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from backwash water can fill in the spaces in stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.

Back Washing Your Pool Filter?

NEVER discharge filter backwash to the storm drain system. It is a violation of the American Canyon Municipal Code 14.28 and will result in a fine.

When disposing of filter rinse water and backwash:

- Filter backwash must be collected, contained, and discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Cartridge filters should be rinsed in a sink, bathtub, or over a lawn or other vegetated area.
- Use a separation tank for diatomaceous earth (DE) and cellulose fiber filters to capture the DE or fibers.
- To conserve water, direct the clean water back into the pool.

DID YOU KNOW?

Illegal dischargers could be fined per California Fish and Game Code Section 5650 (up to \$25,000) and City of American Canyon Municipal Code 14.28.

*Remember, you are responsible for the actions of your pool maintenance service. Be sure you know how your service is disposing of your pool or spa water and the filter backwash. They **must** follow all discharge requirements set by the City.*

This brochure is one of a series to inform you about stormwater pollution prevention.

Other topics include:

- Automotive Maintenance at Home
- Automotive Maintenance for Businesses
- Car Washing
- General Pollution Prevention
- Lawn Care
- Pest Control
- Pet Waste



For more information on pools and spas and stormwater pollution prevention contact:

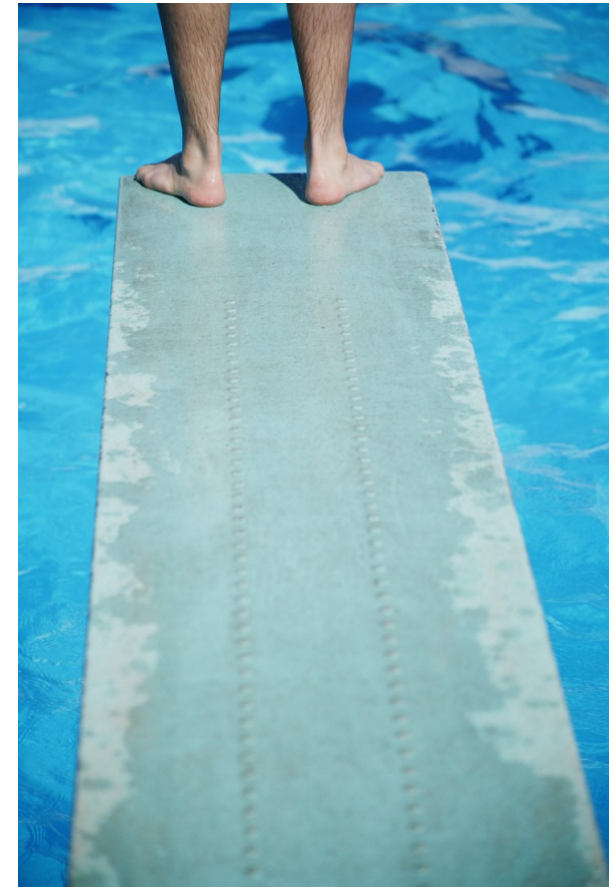
4381 Broadway, Suite 201
American Canyon, California 94503

707--647-4521
www.cityofamericancanyon.org
Email: enviroinfo@cityofamericancanyon.org

Our thanks to the City of Arlington, VA for sharing the information for this brochure.

Rev. 07/14

Draining Your Pool or Spa? Back Washing Your Pool Filter?



**HERE'S WHAT TO DO
WITH THE WATER!**

It's all very simple!

There are three options for draining your swimming pool or spa: to your lawn, to the sanitary sewer system, and to the storm drain system. Whichever method is used you must **dechlorinate** the water before draining. Here's how:

- Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5-10 days without adding any chlorine; or
- Use a chemical dechlorination additive (contact your local pool store for options).

Dechlorination must be verified with a pool testing kit prior to draining.

Option 1: Your Lawn The Preferred Discharge Method

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass/turf or other area on your property that allows water to percolate into the ground, **if and only if...**

- You have notified the Public Works Department;
- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's property or adjacent streets;
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or storm drain facility;
- You do not cause harm to the environment.

This water can be used to irrigate plants, saturate dry ground, or soak into mulched areas.



Option 2: The Sanitary Sewer

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the sanitary sewer system, **if and only if....**

- Method 1 is not possible;
- You have obtained an Encroachment Permit from the Public Works Department (647-4576);
- You have called the Wastewater Treatment Plant (647-5325) at least 24 hours in advance;
- The pH of the water is between 6 and 9.

Follow these steps:

- Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or bathtub.
- Using a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump from the pool/spa to the cleanout or indoor drain. Pump capacity shall be 20 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.
- Siphon/pump water from the pool/spa to the cleanout or indoor drain.
- Replace cleanout cover when finished.

Some in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the property's sanitary sewer lateral. This drain line may be used to drain the pool.

It is not advisable to connect a hose to your indoor toilet to drain your swimming pool or spa. In most cases, water being pumped from your pool will drain faster than the time needed for flushing and refilling of the commode.



Option 3: The Storm Drain

Although it is legal to discharge pool/spa water to the storm drain system, please keep in mind that personal care products such as lotions, oils and sunscreens are pollutants and are detrimental to creeks and the Napa River. Also, the level of chlorine typically maintained in a pool is extremely toxic to aquatic life.

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the storm drain system, **if and only if....**

- Method 1 and 2 are not possible;
- You have obtained an Encroachment Permit from the Public Works Department;
- The pH of the water is between 6 and 9;
- There is no discharge of filter media, acid or algacide cleaning wastes;
- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's property or adjacent streets.

Follow these steps:

- Locate the nearest storm drain inlet.
- Using a hose connect a siphon or sump pump, from the pool/spa to the gutter 20' upstream from the drain inlet. Pump capacity shall be 20 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.
- Siphon/pump water from the pool/spa to the gutter.

An Encroachment Permit is required before draining to the public sewer or storm drain system. The application is available at www.cityofamericancanyon.org or at City Hall, 4381 Broadway, 2nd floor. There is a fee of \$28; please allow 48 hours lead time.

For information, contact:

Public Works Department
General Info: 647-4550
Encroachment Permit: 647-4576
Wastewater Treatment Plant: 647-5325