Maintaining your pool, spa and hot tub water the right way

Opening your pool in the springtime

- **Remove** all debris, leaves or pet waste from the pool cover or tarp. Do not dispose in a ravine.
- **Drain** the accumulated snow and rainwater on top of the pool cover or tarp by a hose across your lawn or to the storm sewer.

Filter backwash water

The water from routine backwashing or pool filters also contains chemicals.

- **Filter and dechlorinate** the backwash water if going to storm sewers **or**
- **Drain** to the sanitary sewer **or**
- **Drain** onto your property if it can be properly absorbed into the ground.

Draining your pool, spa and hot tub water

Never drain on a rainy day or into a ravine.

Chlorinated water

- **Super chlorinate** to get rid of the bacteria, algae and organic matter.
- **Dechlorinate the water** before draining it by placing a dechlorination tablet in the water then letting it sit for one week or longer to allow the chlorine to dissipate.
- **Run the pump** to circulate the water and assist in the dissipation of the chlorine. Sunlight will also help.
- **Filter backwash** water and dechlorinate.
- **Test your pool, hot tub or spa water** ensuring chemical levels are as close to zero as possible before draining.
- **Drain your pool, spa or hot tub water across your lawn** leading to the storm sewer, so your lawn can absorb most of the water and reduce the flow.
- **Report any spill** of untreated pool water to the provincial and municipal authorities if it has gone into a stream, river, lake or storm sewer system.

Saltwater

- **Drain saltwater** pools to the sanitary sewer system connection on your property (sink, toilet, etc.) Using a small hose during non-peak times **or**
- **Drain onto your lawn** surrounding your home, if it can be properly absorbed into the ground without flowing onto your neighbour's property **or**
- **Have the water hauled** by a ministry of the environment and climate change approved and licensed hauler if it cannot be discharged into the sanitary sewer system or solely onto your lawn.
- **Report any spill** to the provincial and municipal authorities if it has gone into a stream, river, lake or storm sewer system.

Report a spill

Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Spills Action Centre
1-800-268-6060

City of Burlington's Roads,
Parks and Forestry Department
905-333-6166

Halton Region Industrial Waste Team
311,
905-825-6000,
1-866-442-5866

burlington.ca

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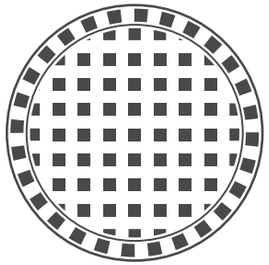
Your Guide to Proper Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Maintenance



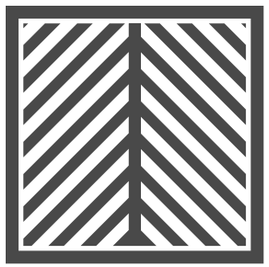
CITY OF Burlington

Burlington Sewer Systems

Did you know the City of Burlington has two different sewer systems?



Sanitary Sewer - A sanitary sewer carries water from drains and toilets to a wastewater treatment plant for treatment before it goes out into Lake Ontario, several kilometres from shore.



Storm Sewer - A storm sewer carries rain and melted snow through large grates on the ground, known as catch basins. Anything entering a catch basin goes directly into the nearest creek and eventually Lake Ontario. This water, referred to as storm water, is not treated.

Did You Know?

- Saltwater pools **must** always be drained to the **sanitary sewer** due to the high level of chlorides.
- Chemicals should not be added to your pool, spa or hot tub for one week or longer before draining.
- Draining your chlorinated water into the storm sewer kills fish.
- Drain your pool, spa or hot tub water across your lawn.
- Never drain your pool, spa or hot tub water on a rainy day because it will make it harder for your lawn to absorb the water and will overwhelm the storm sewer system.
- Never drain into a ravine. It could cause the slopes to become unstable and kill the vegetation.

Why should I be concerned about chlorine and saltwater from my pool, spa or hot tub?

- Both saltwater and chlorinated pools, spas and hot tubs are filled with chemicals that are needed to keep them clean and safe.
- The main chemicals found in pools - such as chlorine, bromine, salt, copper-based algaecides, nonylphenols and nonylphenol ethoxylates - are harmful to the fish and organisms that live in the creeks across Burlington and Lake Ontario.
- The thousands of residential pools in Burlington can have a significant impact on creeks and ultimately Lake Ontario.

Ravines and Valleys

Pool water (of any kind) can never be drained into a ravine or valley, or onto the ground near a ravine or valley. Pool water will cause erosion and serious damage to vegetation.

What should you do?

As the owner of a private swimming pool, hot tub or spa, you and your pool service company are legally responsible to:

- Safely maintain and operate your pool, hot tub or spa.
- Report a spill to provincial and municipal authorities if your pool water has gone into a stream, river, lake or storm sewer system without proper treatment.

Dispose of expired or leftover pool chemicals properly. Take them to the Halton Waste Management Site – Household Hazardous Waste Depot at 5400 Regional Rd. 25, Milton and watch for annual Special Waste Drop-off Days at halton.ca/waste.

