



**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A  
PROPERTY OWNER/RENTER TO FOLLOW  
CITY ORDINANCES ON POOL DRAINING.**

**By following these guidelines,  
you can ensure your drained  
pool water is properly treated  
and recycled.**

**WHEN TO DRAIN A POOL OR SPA:**

**Before you drain your pool, consult with your pool professional and check your pool chemistry. It may be time to drain your pool if the:**

- **Total dissolved solids (TDS) exceed 1,500 parts per million (ppm), or Calcium hardness exceeds 350 ppm (or about 20 grains)**
- **For questions of determining your water hardness, contact your local pool/spa service company.**
- **A permit application for pool water discharges must be filed with the City of Millbrae. To obtain an application, please contact either the Compliance Inspector or Control Supervisor numbers provided below.**
- **If you have any questions about draining your pool water into the sanitary sewer system, contact the City of Millbrae Environmental Compliance Inspector: 650-259-2397 or the Source Control Supervisor: 650-259-2392**
- **If you're unsure about draining your pool, or you'd like assistance, you may want to consider contacting a professionally-licensed pool service company or plumber.**

## Washing Pool and Spa Filters

Cleaning pool and spa filters can also be hazardous to our environment and must be disposed of properly.

- 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.
- Remember to move the drain hose frequently, since backwash water discharge to one location can create stagnant water areas that can attract mosquitoes.

In most cases, the amount of backwash water generated by washing pool and spa filters is readily absorbed into soil around the pool area.

This water can be used to irrigate salt-tolerant plants. Do not put salt water on Roses or Fruit Trees.



The City of Millbrae treats what is collected in the sewer system, and much of this water can be reclaimed.

NEVER discharge filter backwash into the streets, curb, sidewalk, retention basin or adjacent private property. Please observe the City of Millbrae's water conservation and stormwater municipal code at [www.codepublishing.com/CA/Millbrae/html/Millbrae08/Millbrae0820.html](http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Millbrae/html/Millbrae08/Millbrae0820.html)



**Only Rain in the Storm Drain**



Contact the City of Millbrae at 650.259.2334 or [www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/departments-services/public-works](http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/departments-services/public-works). We are here to help you dispose of your pool and spa water correctly and safely.

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# DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA THE RIGHT WAY





## Soak Up Our

# WATER ORDINANCES

Making your swimming pool safe and inviting for family and friends means keeping the water clean and properly treated. Unfortunately, the same chemicals used to keep pool water safe for people are harmful to the environment and therefore must be disposed of properly. When water is drained into the streets, it picks up debris along the way and ends up collecting in retention basins in parks where children and pets play. This polluted water is hazardous to our community.

City of Millbrae ordinance rules prohibit discharging pool water to the street, curbing, sidewalk, neighbors yard or anywhere off your property. Pool water must be drained directly to the sanitary sewer system, which allows the water to be recycled and reused.

Please observe the City of Millbrae's municipal codes at: [www.codepublishing.com/CA/Millbrae/html/Millbrae08/Millbrae0820.html](http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Millbrae/html/Millbrae08/Millbrae0820.html) (under Sec. 8.20.340)



Retention Basin: Do not drain your pool here



Sewer Cleanout  
Photo: Energy Master Pool Services



This water came from storm drains. It must be kept clean to keep our kids, pets and community safe.

## HOW TO DRAIN A POOL OR SPA

### OPTION 1: YOUR YARD

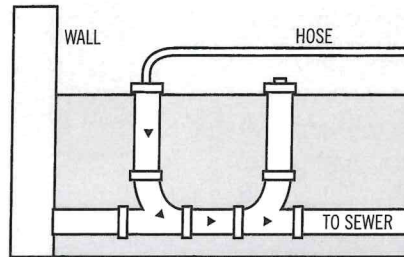
#### THE PREFERRED DISCHARGE METHOD

**Drain pool or spa water to the rocks/desert or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground, if and only if...**

- You do not cause flooding to you neighbor's property or any other adjacent property.
- The land area is sufficient to absorb the water and not cause it to runoff into a ditch, creek, or other conveyance (i.e. storm drain or retention area).

### OPTION 2: THE SANITARY SEWER

**Drain your pool to the sanitary sewer. Most in ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer. If not, then:**



**!** Only put the hose in a few inches down, to prevent the hose from going down too deep and sending water backing up into the house!

#### STEP 4:

Monitor pool draining to assure the pump capacity does not exceed the sewer line capacity. If the water begins to back up, stop draining and contact a professional plumber. The maximum recommended discharge rate is 20 gallons per minute. Any hoses or equipment inserted into the sewer line can become contaminated and should not be used for any other purpose.

#### STEP 5:

Replace all cleanout covers when finished.

#### STEP 6:

After draining your pool, refill it as soon as possible. Direct sunlight can damage the plaster in your pool if it's left exposed. It may take a few days for the fresh water to reach the proper chemical levels, so check the levels every day for a week and add chemicals as needed.

#### STEP 1:

**Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property.**

The sewer clean out access port is usually located in the ground and close to the home in the front yard—it may be near a water spigot. The port should have a rubber or threaded cap with a square wrench fitting and should be 3 to 4 inches in diameter. If you can't locate the port, you may want to consider contacting a plumber.

#### STEP 2:

Shut off the power to the filtration system at the circuit breaker and turn off the automatic water fill valve.

#### STEP 3:

Run a drainage hose from the sewer clean-out port to the pool, and connect it to a submersible pump. Lower the pump into the deepest part of the pool, near the drain.

- **DO NOT** drain swimming pool or spa water to your SEPTIC SYSTEM as it may cause system failure.

