

# Keep pool chemicals out of our streams

Water from pools, spas, and fountains contains salts, dirt particles, and chemical disinfectants such as chlorine that can be toxic to aquatic life.

Dechlorinate water fully before draining slowly onto a permeable surface.

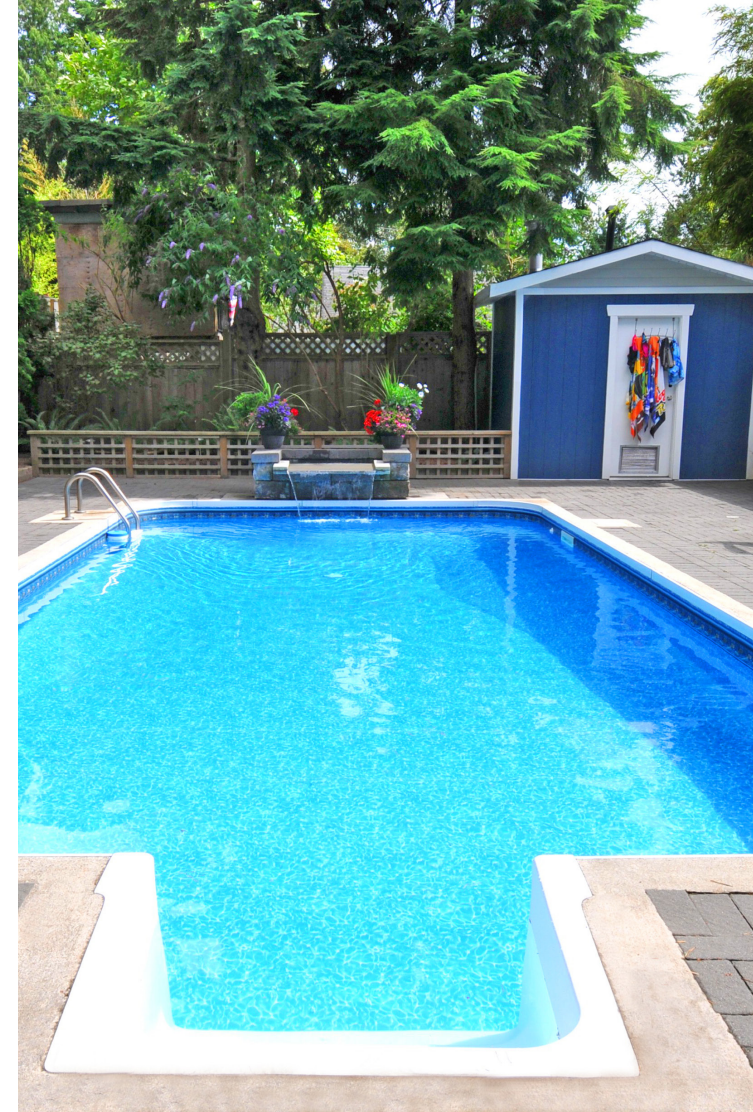
Rapidly draining water can erode soil and vegetation, damaging landscapes and carrying excess sediment into waterways.



## OUR WATERSHED

The residents of our watershed depend on it for drinking water, floodplain functions, recreation, and other services. A watershed is an area of land where all streams and rainfall drain to the same place. A healthy watershed means a healthy community, environment, and economy.

Learn more about watersheds, stormwater, and how to protect water quality by visiting [KeepitCleanPartnership.org](https://www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org).



## Take action

- Only purchase the pool chemicals you need and read instructions carefully.
- Learn about facilities or events in your community where you can properly dispose of unneeded or expired chemicals.



*Brochure designed and developed by the Keep it Clean Partnership in Boulder County, Colorado.*

# Draining Pools, Spas, and Fountains

**WATER PROTECTION GUIDE**



## Step 1: Dechlorinate before draining

- Disconnect disinfecting system
- Allow water to sit for one week so chemicals will dissipate or use dechlorination tablets
- Test chlorine or bromine levels with a pool test kit before discharging



## Step 2: Remove or strain out algae, solids, and oils

- Use net or cleaner to remove algae, solids, and oils from water before discharging
- Collect, contain, and discharge filter backwash water (different from pool water) to a sanitary sewer - never to the storm sewer



## Step 3: Discharge water slowly and carefully

- Direct water onto lawns or other landscaped surfaces to reduce runoff
- Drain water slowly to avoid causing erosion or flooding of streets, gutters, storm sewers, and neighboring properties
- Move hose frequently and avoid pooling water



## From your Home to the Creek



Common household activities can be sources of pollutants



Rain and snow pick up pollutants and carry them into roads as stormwater



Stormwater enters storm drains on roads and flows through underground channels



Stormwater flows through these channels directly into local creeks without being treated