



## WATER PROTECTION GUIDE TO

# Draining Pools, Spas, and Fountains

### Step 1: Dechlorinate before draining

- Disconnect the disinfecting system.
- Use dechlorination tablets or allow the water to sit for one week so the chemicals in the water can dissipate.
- Test chlorine or bromine levels with a pool test kit before discharging.



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

- Use a net or cleaner to remove algae, solids, and oils from the water before discharging.
- Backwashing involves cleaning out the pool filter by reversing the direction of the water flow. Collect, contain, and discharge filter backwash 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 prevent runoff from directly entering the road and storm drains.
- Drain water slowly to avoid causing erosion or flooding of streets, gutters, and neighboring properties.
- Move the hose frequently to avoid pooling water.



# 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.

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

## Your community is taking action

Dispose of expired or unneeded pool chemicals properly. **20,793** Boulder County residents responsibly disposed of **1,030,446 LBS.** of household hazardous waste at the Hazardous Materials Management Facility in 2019.

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## From your Home to the Creek

Polluted stormwater enters storm drains and flows directly to local waterways without receiving treatment at sewage plants.



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

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## Boulder St. Vrain Watershed

Our watershed is home to over 300,000 residents who 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 our watershed and how you can help protect it at [www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org](http://www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org).

