



Hamilton-Halton
Watershed Stewardship Program

A Partnership Program of:

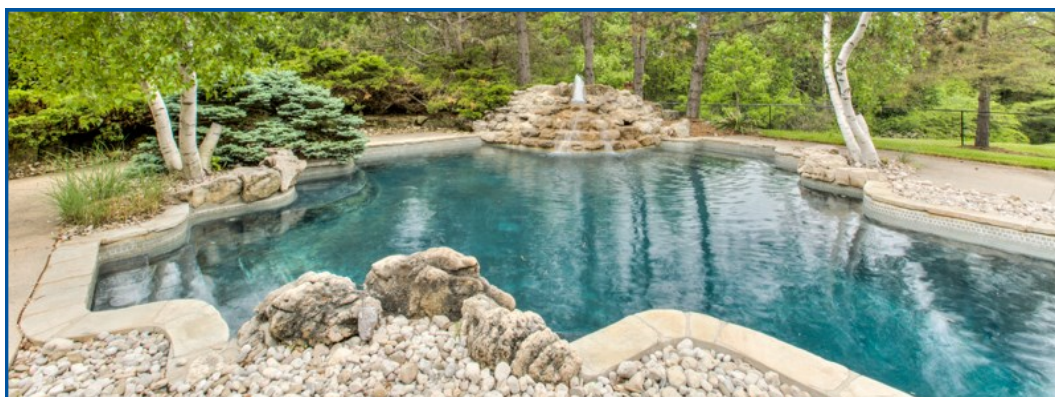


Key Points for Draining your Pool the Right Way

- Draining chlorinated water or saltwater into storm sewers or directly into creeks can kill aquatic organisms
- Drain water across your lawn to encourage it to absorb into the ground
- Allow your pool to dechlorinate before draining by not adding chemicals for 1 to 2 weeks
- Never drain your pool on a rainy day

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Environmentally Friendly Pool Drainage Practices



The chemicals we use to keep swimming pools clean and safe for recreational swimming such as chlorine, bromine, salt and algaecide can be harmful to our natural environment. Improper drainage of our swimming pools can lead to these chemicals being transported into the ravines, creeks and lakes where they are toxic, even deadly to fish and aquatic insects.

Recognizing the importance of these chemicals for maintaining safe swimming conditions, here are some steps that can be taken recognizing the importance of maintaining a healthy natural environment.

Dechlorinate the water before draining by not adding chemicals for a week or longer. The chlorine will naturally dissipate. A dechlorination tablet can also be added to accelerate the process. Leaving the pumps running during this process can also accelerate dechlorination.

Test your water to ensure that chemical levels are as low as possible before draining.

Drain onto your lawn. When backwashing or winterizing, drain the water onto your lawn. This will allow the water to infiltrate and slowly make its way to our natural areas while also allowing sediments in the water to settle out. Avoid draining directly into natural areas such as ravines as it can cause erosion.

Pool discharge water is wastewater, and should be dealt with responsibly by pool owners.

Salt Water Pools

If you cannot slowly drain the water from your saltwater pool onto your lawn where it can be absorbed, it should be drained to the **sanitary sewer**.

For large pool drawdowns you may need to consider having the water hauled out for proper treatment.

Never drain a saltwater pool into a ravine or creek. The chloride levels in salt water pools can be as high or higher than average ocean salinity. These levels are toxic to our native freshwater aquatic organisms.

Understanding our Sewer System and Natural Infrastructure



Natural Infrastructure
(aka. Creek)



Storm Sewer



Sanitary Sewer

The catch basins on your street collect water in the storm sewer and drain directly to your neighbourhood creek, untreated. The creek is used as natural infrastructure to drain water to Lake Ontario.

The sanitary sewer collects sewage water from the toilets and sinks in your home. This water is treated at the wastewater plant before draining to Lake Ontario.

You Can Help by responsibly discharging your pool water. This will in turn help protect the natural areas in your neighbourhood as well as your local watershed. If you have any questions, please contact the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program. This program works with landowners to encourage good stewardship, with particular focus on the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of natural areas, streams and groundwater resources.



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**Interested in learning
more about natural
features on your property?
Call us to arrange a free
on-site consultation!**