

Pool & Spa Drainage Guide

Why careful pool water disposal matters:

Improper release of swimming pool water can harm local waterbodies, native vegetation, and wildlife habitat. Local waterbodies depend on responsible actions from everyone to remain healthy and functional for the community.

Pool draining steps:

1. A week prior to draining the pool, stop adding chlorine and any other substance.
2. Test the water before draining: pH should be 6.5-7.8, chlorine levels not detectable.
3. Pump pool water over an open area such as a lawn before letting it drain into a stormdrain. Look for natural drainage paths or alter the drainage path to keep water away from adjacent property and buildings. Monitor the pumped water to ensure it doesn't cause erosion and pick up debris as it runs into the stormdrain.
4. Never drain pool water directly into a body of water such as a lake, stream, wetland, or even stormdrain.
5. Used pool filters can be thrown into the trash. Extra or partially used filters can be disposed of at the Ramsey County household hazardous waste collection site.



Pool draining tips:

- Careful use of pool chemicals can save money and help simplify the pool draining process.
- If pool drainage is a regular or semi-regular occurrence, it will be worth taking the time to make a permanent plan that includes hoses, pumps (pictured left), and potentially landscaping strategies.
- Consider a backyard raingarden with an overflow feature as a strategy to capture pool water and rooftop runoff.
- Filter out any paint chips before draining.
- If using an acid product to clean the pool, make sure pH levels have adjusted to normal before draining. Always follow instructions on chemical labels for disposal and usage. Never mix two or more chemicals.
- Remember that stormdrains connect directly to waterbodies.

