

Pool water, hot tub water, rain water, melting snow... it's all just water, isn't it?

*Actually, it's not.*

Pool and hot tub water contains chlorine and other chemicals. When drained into the storm water system, the chemicals go directly into the river. The chemicals are toxic to fish and harmful to our environment.

Only rain in the storm drain

Thanks for helping us protect our drinking water and our environment.



**For more information, or if you have a question or comment:**

The City of Red Deer  
Environmental Services department  
403-342-8750  
Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
environmentalservices@reddeer.ca  
www.reddeer.ca



Environmental Services

Caring for your hot tub or swimming pool – and our environment

Updated 08/2012



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Red Deer's storm water system is designed to remove melting snow and rainfall runoff from streets and parking lots. This runoff flows directly into the river without being treated. Anything entering the storm drains, other than clean rainfall runoff, contributes to water pollution.

Help us protect our environment and drinking water. Do not empty hot tub and pool water into the storm water system.

**So, if I can't drain my hot tub or pool into the storm drains...**

### where do I drain it?

→ **Drain it on your garden or lawn**

Hot tub or pool water can be used to irrigate hearty plants, to saturate dry ground, or soak down rocked or mulched areas.

If you choose to drain water to a landscaped area, the water must remain on your property. Be sure to regulate the rate of discharge so it does not cause problems such as erosion or flooding.

→ **Use a sink, toilet, or floor drain in your house**

Water discharged into the wastewater collection system is treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Do not leave your hot tub or pool hose unattended while draining.

Regardless of how you dispose of hot tub or pool water, it's important to reduce the amount of chemicals in the water. Chemicals can harm your plants and cause problems with the wastewater treatment process.

### Minimizing chemicals in your pool or spa water:

- stop adding chemicals to your hot tub or pool at least one week before you drain it
- use a chlorine test kit to ensure chlorine levels are not detectable in the water before you empty it
- do not use copper based algaecides (blue stone). These can interfere with the wastewater treatment process. Instead, use approved alternatives such as chlorine or sodium bromide



Only rain in the storm drain