



Swimming Pools Wastewater Information Handout

Commercial and industrial pools must adhere to The City of Calgary Wastewater Bylaw 14M2012 and The City of Calgary Stormwater Bylaw 37M2005. Use these tips to comply with regulatory requirements, lower fees and protect your business, the community and the environment.

Small residential pools discharge

Volume of 3m³ (3,000 litres) or less, excluding hot tubs:

- Discharge is permitted into the stormwater system (via storm drains/catch basins) provided chloride and bromine levels are zero and the pH level is neutral.
- Tap water must be allowed to sit for 48 hours before discharging to ensure residual chlorine levels have dissipated.
- If pool sanitation methods were used, the water must be discharged to the wastewater system (by a drain connected to the wastewater system inside your home or building), and is required to meet Schedules A, B, and C of the Wastewater Bylaw 14M2012.
 - Please refer to large residential pools discharge below.

Large residential pools discharge

Volume exceeding 3m³ (3,000 litres) and hot tubs:

- Discharge is only permitted into the wastewater system provided the following limits of the wastewater bylaw are not exceeded:

pH	Between 5.5 and 10
Temperature	75 °C
Free Chlorine	5 mg/L
Total Chlorine	5 mg/L
Total Chloride	1500 mg/L

- This discharge rate must not exceed 150 litres per minute.
 - This can be accomplished by discharging the water under gravity (no pumping) through a ¾ inch gardenhose.

Commercial or industrial pool discharge

Commercial and industrial pools must meet the same limits as large residential pools. In addition, they are required to notify The City of Calgary before discharging the pool water. Due to the significant amounts of water being discharged, specific information must be provided to The City, using the online [Pool Drain Request Form](#). To avoid delays, two to three weeks' notice is recommended.

In the event of a residential, commercial or industrial pool water spill, the wastewater bylaw requires the release of pool water to be reported to The City of Calgary's Industrial Monitoring Group by contacting 311.

For more information or to request the detailed version of the of Swimming pools best management practices document please contact 311.

What to do if you have an accidental release

In the event of an unintentional release it is important to act quickly to prevent the material from entering the wastewater or stormwater system.

The Wastewater Bylaw section 35 under "*Release Reporting*" requires the person who released or allowed the release to notify:

- The City of Calgary by contacting 311 as well as the Industrial Monitoring Group at img@calgary.ca
- The owner of the premise where the release occurred.
- Any other person that may be affected by the release.

For any spills that could harm the environment you will also need to report the spill to Alberta Environment.

For more information please contact 311 or the Industrial Monitoring Group at img@calgary.ca