STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION:
SWIMMING POOLS
Guidelines for Proper Pool Drainage

Before you start draining the water from your swimming pool, make sure you are meeting the pool draining requirements. Per the City's Illicit Discharge Ordinance section 29-306(g)(1), "No person shall throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the City of Rock Hill stormwater systems any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than stormwater. Prohibited substances include, but are not limited to: sewage, backwash and draining associated with swimming pools or fountains". Only stormwater should be placed down the storm drain. Anything else, including pool water, is considered a pollutant and could harm water quality in our lakes, rivers, and streams. Follow the simple steps below to correctly drain your pool.

Where do I drain my pool water?

The City of Rock Hill requires that all pool water discharges be maintained in a sanitary sewer clean-out on private property. During general maintenance, when backwashing your pool, drainage into the sewer clean-out is not necessary as long as the discharge is maintained on your private property.

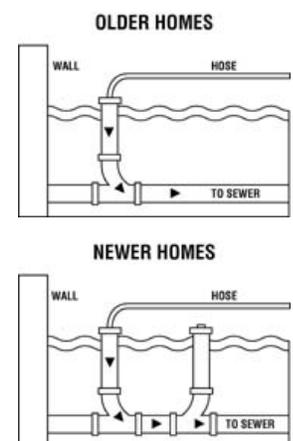## What does a sewer clean-out look like?

The sewer clean-out is typically a three or four inch black pipe about level with the landscaping, typically located close to the home. It may have a black cap, with a raised square nut or recessed slot, which can be unscrewed providing access for the pool water disposal. In a newer home, you may find that there are two clean-out pipes. In this case, the one closer to the home is the preferred access point.

What is the recommended flow rate to drain my pool?

The recommended flow rate is no greater than 12 gallons per minute. The safe flow rate may differ depending on the size of the drain line; distance to the sewer main, and the condition of the pipes. It may be necessary to consult a plumber regarding a safe rate to discharge the pool water into the sewer clean out.

What is the procedure for using the sewer clean-out?

- Locate the clean-out. If there are two, use the one closest to the home
- Remove the cap and insert the drain hose a few inches into the pipe.
- Secure the drain hose so it won't pop out.
- Turn on the pump.
- Immediately check to make sure no water is backing up into the house. Drains for showers and tubs are the first places to check.
- If the water backs up, turn off the pump immediately. You may have a blockage, or the flow rate is too high.
- Caution: Using a clean-out in the wall is risky, and the potential for backing up water into the home is great.

Questions? Contact Planning & Development **803-329-5590**

RockHill
SOUTH CAROLINA
Always on.