# GOOD TO KNOW

The average backyard swimming pool holds approximately 19,000 gallons of water that may contain a variety of biocides, algaecides, and other chemicals. These chemicals are toxic to the environment and can pollute local waterways when emptied onto driveways, gutters, or streets.

**Following best management practices protects the waterways where we fish, swim, and play.**

**Learn more at askHRgreen.org/pool or contact your local stormwater office.**

# GOOD TO DO

## Cleaning

- ✓ Clean your pool or spa regularly.
- ✓ Pump filters should be cleaned over grassy areas. Never rinse filters in the street, gutter, or storm drain.
- ✓ Backwash sand and diatomaceous earth over a grassy area; dispose of backwash solids in the trash or in a landscaped area.

## Draining

- ✓ Before draining, stop adding chlorine, bromine, or salt to your pool and let the water sit for approximately 10 days to allow chemical levels to dissipate naturally.
- ✓ Before discharging the water, use a pool testing kit to ensure the following:
  - ✓ total residual chlorine or bromine is less than 0.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm)
  - ✓ pH is between 6.0 and 8.0
- ✓ Drain pools slowly, over a few days, to well-vegetated areas on your property where it can be absorbed into the soil.
- ✓ Monitor the water as it drains to avoid flooding, erosion, or pooling that could breed insects or create odors.

## General Maintenance

- ✓ Cover the pool when not in use.
- ✓ Maintain your pool's chemicals properly and avoid use of copper sulfate.
- ✓ Keep the pool and filters clean to minimize the need for backwashing.
- ✓ Store chemicals in a clean, dry, covered area.

**Learn more at askHRgreen.org/pool**