

### Preface

Backwash drainage from swimming pools and spas discharging to sewer is classified as trade waste and will require approval to discharge.

For the purpose of this guideline swimming pools refer to;

- Commercial pools
- Institutional facility pools,
- Municipal facility pools
- Commercial ornamental fountains and ponds.
- Commercial spas

**Table 1: Key Trade Waste Quality & Quantity Requirements**

PARAMETER	GENERALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL
pH	Between 6-10 units
Chlorine	≤5mg/L
Temperature	≤38 degrees C
Total Dissolved Solids	4000mg/L
Suspended Solids	600mg/L
Flow Rate to Sewer	2L/s (maximum)

### Discharge Requirements

Filtered backwash water shall be collected in a holding tank and then be discharged into the sewer at a controlled rate as specified in the approval conditions. Solids settled at the bottom of the holding tank should be removed for off-site disposal and not be discharged into the sewer. The discharge shall be limited to low flow periods in the sewer.

**Table 2: Issues of Concern & Related Sewer Acceptance Requirements**

Issue	Concern	Sewer acceptance requirements
Large volume of discharge where pool is emptied	Treatment costs and possible local network overloading	Commercial / institutional pools are normally NOT to be drained to sewer, but may be drained to the stormwater system subject to Environment ACT approval. Under certain conditions Whitsunday Regional Council may agree to accept pool contents to sewer.
Pool overflow (from rainwater entry or overfilling)	Rainwater from the pool is considered uncontrolled and not permitted to enter the sewer	Not typically permitted to discharge to sewer
backwash	High flow rate may locally overload network. Other specific water quality concerns.	Pools may need to install and maintain instrumentation and controls to ensure discharge to sewer is rate limited, and restricted to times when the sewer has sufficient capacity. Water quality requirements indicated below must be satisfied. In addition suspended solids must be less than 600 mg/L.
Storage of chemicals (including salt)	Spilled chemicals in high concentrations may cause corrosion and pose a risk to the health and safety of sewer workers.	Chemicals must be stored within bunds or areas which cannot drain to sewer and also the pool.

### Other Issues

If emptying the pool for cleaning or maintenance purposes, Whitsunday Regional Council is required to be notified. Whitsunday Regional Council will determine an appropriate controlled flow rate to the sewerage system and limit the time of discharge to low flow periods in the sewer. This type of activity should not be undertaken during wet weather periods.

Whitsunday Regional Council may need to set an acceptance limit for total dissolved solids to suit local conditions for discharges from salt-water pools.

Furthermore, the discharger is required to provide Whitsunday Regional Council in advance the details of cleaning compounds, if any, (including brand name, quantity, MSDS where appropriate) which intends to use for cleaning of pool surfaces. The wastewater arising from cleaning of pool surfaces by using strong detergents or acids shall not be permitted to discharge into the sewerage system.