



Why It's Important to Properly Backwash Your Pool, Spa or Fountain

Pools, spas, and fountains have chemicals, such as salt and chlorine. When you drain pool water into the storm drain, it goes into our washes and parks where it can be harmful to the environment. For this reason, the City of Glendale has an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of pool water into the streets.

When you properly drain your pool water into the sewer clean out, it travels through the City's sanitary sewer system to a water reclamation facility where it is treated and reused for landscape irrigation or groundwater recharge.

Image courtesy of Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program

HOW TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

Draining of swimming pool, architectural pool or spa water into the street, alleyway, or right-of-way

City of Glendale Code Compliance Department
(623) 930-3610
www.glendaleaz.com/codecompliance

Green Pools

Maricopa County Environmental Services
(602) 506-3301
www.esd.maricopa.gov/2011/Mosquito-Information

Water Waste

City of Glendale Water Services Department
(623) 930-3535
www.glendaleaz.com/waterconservation/reportwaterwaste.cfm



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HOW TO DRAIN OR BACKWASH YOUR POOL, SPA, OR FOUNTAIN



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OPTION 1

Use the Sanitary Sewer

Use a drain hose to connect to the sanitary sewer cleanout, which will send the water directly to a Glendale water reclamation facility. The City can treat and reuse this water for landscape irrigation or groundwater recharge.



A drain hose inserted into the sewer cleanout.

Where Is My Sanitary Sewer Clean Out?

1. Look for a black threaded cap about 3 to 4 inches in diameter, with a square-shaped top. Depending on the age and layout of your home, your sanitary sewer cleanout could be located outside in the front or backyard or attached to the outside wall of your home.

2. It may be difficult to locate the sewer cleanout if it's been covered with landscaping. If you can't find it, you may have to contact a plumber.
3. Insert the drain hose a few inches into the cleanout.
4. The maximum recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute or less. The safe flow rate may be less, depending on the size of the drain line, distance to the sewer main, and the condition of the pipe.



The sanitary sewer cleanout typically has a black threaded cap about 3 to 4 inches in diameter, with a square-shaped top.

Caution!

- Do not use a cleanout that is mounted in a wall since this may cause water to back up into the home.
- Do not connect the pool or backwash drain line permanently to the sewer cleanout. This could contaminate the water when you refill the pool.
- Do not open a manhole to drain directly into the sewer. This requires a permit.
- Do not drain water into a septic tank.

OPTION 2

Water Your Yard

When possible, use pool, spa, or fountain water to irrigate your landscaping. It must be retained on the property. It is a violation of City Code Sec. 25-24 to permit or cause the discharge of water from any swimming pool, architectural pool or spa into any public street, alleyway or rights-of-way.



Drain hose discharging pool water into the grass.

Caution!

- Remember that pool water contains more salt and chlorine than tap water. Bermuda grass and Oleanders are more salt tolerant than other plants.
- Avoid using pool water on citrus, hibiscus, or other salt-sensitive plants. Do not spray pool water directly onto leaves or water the same area repeatedly.
- Over watering can lead to stagnant water, which attracts mosquitoes.
- Be sure the water doesn't overflow into your neighbor's yard or onto the streets.