



WHY DOES POOL WATER MATTER?

There are two different types of water when it comes to pools:

- Pool water is the water that is in your pool or hot tub that is normally treated with chlorine.
- Backwash water is the waste product produced by cleaning a filter through a method of reversing the flow of water inside the filtration system.

Properly managing pool water discharge is crucial for preserving water quality and protecting the environment. When swimming pool is drained into the storm drain system, it will eventually reach local creeks and washes. Pool water may be contaminated by bacteria, chlorine and other chemicals that can harm humans, wildlife and vegetation. That's why you should never drain pools into grass, roads or the stormwater system.

Where your pool chemicals could go...



CAREFREE ARIZONA

POOLS



If you notice someone improperly draining their pool report it online at [carefree.org/stormwater](https://www.carefree.org/stormwater)

Take care of your pool and the environment at the same time!

OPTION 1: IRRIGATE YOUR LANDSCAPE

Draining your pool water onto your desert landscape or lawn is the perfect eco-friendly option. It allows the water to percolate into the ground which allows you to repurpose your pool water and save water that you would have otherwise needed for irrigation.

HOWEVER, MAKE SURE...

Pool water contains salt and chlorine, which can be harmful to some plants. Use the table provided to identify which plants are suitable for pool water irrigation.

Check out the chart to find out what plants are salt-tolerant or salt sensitive. ➔

For the best results, wait 3-7 days after pool treatments before draining to ensure that chlorine dissipates, and the pH is within the 7-8 range.

Move the drainage hose frequently to prevent the creation of stagnant water areas that will attract pests (ex: mosquitos)

Make sure the water your draining stays in your own yard and doesn't flow into your neighbor's yard or a storm drain.



CENTURY

ROSEMARY

YUCCA

PLANTS & POOL WATER CHART

Moderately to Very Salt Tolerant

Date Palms	Saguaro
Pickleweed	Golden Barrel Cactus
Texas Sage	Century Plants
Prickly Pear Cactus	Ice Plant

Moderately Salt Tolerant

Yucca	Fan Palms
Rosemary	Ocotillo
Most Agave	Most Acacia

Salt Sensitive (DON'T USE POOL WATER)

Fruit Trees	Yucca
Birds of Paradise	Texas Mount. Laurel
Desert Willow	Pindo Palm

OPTION 2: DRAIN INTO SANITARY SEWER

If you have a large volume of pool water to dispose of and cannot reuse it for irrigation, you can drain or backwash it into your home's sanitary sewer clean-out.

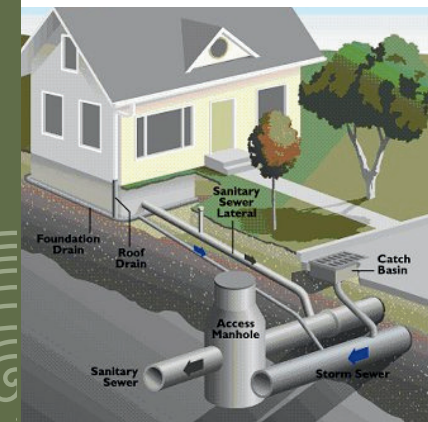
FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1 Locate your home's sanitary sewer clean-out and remove the cap (if there are multiple clean-outs, use the one closest to the house).

2 If you are completely draining the pool, turn off the power to the filtration system and turn off the automatic water fill valve (if present).

3 Use a submersible pump and connect a drainage hose from the pump into the clean-out pipe. Ensure that the hose is securely attached.

4 Turn on the pump and quickly check to make sure that water isn't backing up in your home, especially in sinks, tubs, and toilets.



If water backs up, turn off the pump immediately. This could indicate a blockage or that the pump's flow rate is set too high (rule of thumb: no more than 50 gallons per minute).

Diagram Provided By
The Arizona
Department of
Environmental
Quality