



PROPERLY DRAIN AND BACKWASH YOUR POOL

A GUIDE FOR SMART AND RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR WATER DISPOSAL

Draining and backwashing your pool doesn't have to be wasteful. When you need to backwash your pool filter or drain the pool, there are several options to consider:

Irrigate landscaping with pool discharge.

Pool water is a great irrigation option for hardy, salt-tolerant plants.

Do your research to ensure you are saving water and saving your garden. Pool water contains chlorine and salt which can harm certain plants.

Locate your home's sanitary sewer clean-out.

What to look for: Typically, a black threaded cap (3-4 inches in diameter) covers sewer clean-out openings.

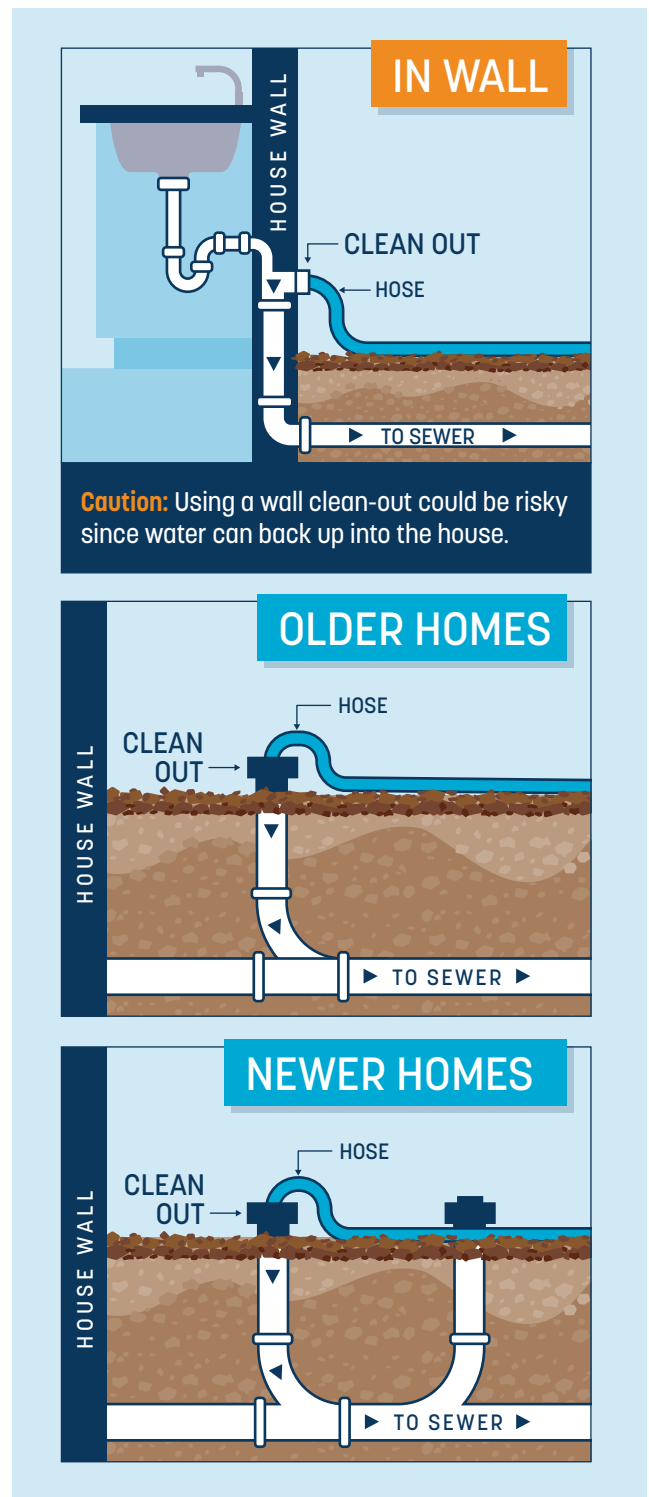
- Newer homes: Look next to the house at the point closest to the city sewer line, usually outside a bathroom or the kitchen. Newer homes typically have two clean-out pipes leading to the sewer line.
- Older homes: Often found inside walls, or outside at ground level (may be hidden by landscaping).
- If your neighborhood has alleys: The clean-out is probably in your back yard.

Don't have a sewer clean out?

If you don't have a sewer clean-out—such as in homes with septic tanks—and your pool water is clean (de-chlorinated and free of pollutants), you can discharge it into the right-of-way if you have a permit.

To obtain your discharge permit, click the link below or scan the QR code.

phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/waterservicessite/documents/esd_discharge_request.pdf



How to use the sewer clean-out:

1. **Locate the clean-out**
If there are two, use the one closest to the home.
2. **Remove the cap and insert the drain hose a few inches into the pipe.**
3. **Secure the drain hose so to prevent it from popping out.**
4. **Turn on the Pump:**
The maximum recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute (720 gal/hr). However, the safe flow rate may be less, depending on the size/conditions of the drain line, so adjust as needed depending on your drain line's size and condition.
5. **Immediately Check for Backups:**
Ensure no water is backing up into the house. Drains in 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.

WHAT TO DO:

- ✓ Do backwash or drain into the sanitary sewer cleanout
- ✓ Do backwash into retention areas with tolerant plants onto turf.
- ✓ Do check plant sensitivity before backwashing into landscape areas.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- ✗ Don't backwash or drain your pool into the street.
- ✗ Don't allow pool water to drain onto neighboring yards or into nearby washes.
- ✗ Don't drain into a septic tank.
- ✗ Don't install the pool drain line as a permanent fixture. This may violate the city plumbing code or county health regulations and could contaminate the water when you refill the pool.

