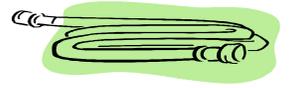




Spas & Swimming Pools Discharge Requirements Fact Sheet



Conditions for Properly Draining Spas and Swimming Pools

This fact sheet addresses the requirements for two types of discharges: (1) **Filter backwashing**; and (2) **Swimming pool and spa draining**. These requirements apply to all residential discharges that happen within the Town of Oro Valley.



Filter Backwash Water

Backwashing is defined as the rinsing and / or cleaning of cartridge or sand filters. Filter backwashing produces water that may contain elevated levels of chlorine and other pollutants.

- Backwash water may be disposed of (and filters may be rinsed on the pool/spa owner's property. This should be done in an area that will absorb the water.
- Filtered backwash water cannot be allowed to leave the owners property except through the sanitary sewer.
- Backwash water may also be discharged to the sanitary sewer system, as described later on in this fact sheet under “**Discharges to Sanitary Sewer System**”

Draining Swimming Pool & Spa Water

The draining of swimming pools or spas usually involves a large volume of water with low chlorine levels. Procedures for emptying a pool or spa are as follows:

1. A pool or spa may be emptied if the chlorine content is ≤ 1 part per million and free of chemicals;
2. The pH level of the water must be tested prior to discharge and must fall within a range of 7 to 8;
3. The water may be discharged off of the owners property — Provided it goes to a drainage channel, wash, or along the curb line gutter of a paved street and is allowed by the home owners association rules;
 - A) The discharge must be monitored to ensure that it does not cause any erosion of the drainage channels or washes;
 - B) Discharge water may be used to irrigate vegetation on the owner's property.

The following restrictions apply to swimming pool and spa discharge activities:

- If a pool or spa has been acid washed, that water may **not** be discharged off the pool/spa owner's property;
- A pool or spa shall **not** be emptied until the chlorine content is ≤ 1 part per million (1 milligram/ liter)
- Discharges may **not** be drained into unpaved/ strip-paved streets or unpaved/ strip-paved alleys;
- Discharges may **not** run onto a neighbor's property or across a sidewalk;
- Discharge may **not** cause erosion; and
- Pools or spas may **not** be permanently connected to a storm drain, drainage channel or wash.

Discharge to the Sanitary Sewer System

The following are the procedural guidelines from the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (Procedure #:PN0027-01)

1. *Plan to perform the discharge during the low-use hours of the sanitary sewer system, in the afternoon or the late hours are generally the lowest use times in residential areas.*
2. *Plan to use a small volume pump when discharging the pool water to the lateral line.*
3. *Draining volume should be no greater than 15 gallons per minute.*
4. *Use the access “cap” of the private property sewer clean out for the point of discharge, at a rate of flow that does not exceed the lateral line capacity.*
5. *Use of public manholes or cleanouts located within the public street is prohibited, due to potential traffic and general safety concerns for pedestrians, children, neighbors, etc..*
6. *Control the rate of flow so that the private lateral line does not overflow, causing pool water discharge to impact your property or that of neighboring properties.*
7. *Pima County is not responsible for any damages, claims or other impacts resulting either directly or indirectly from residential or commercial discharges of swimming pool water to the public sewer system.*



If you have any questions, please call the Town of Oro Valley Stormwater Utility at 520-229-5044.