



TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK ARIZONA

Town of Queen Creek Draining/Backwashing Pool Policy

The Town of Queen Creek currently offers residents three options for discharging water from a swimming pool.

1) If possible, always drain all or a portion of your swimming pool water, including backwash, on your own **personal property** first. Please do not let your pool water overflow off of your own property. If only a portion of your pool water can be drained onto your property, then option #2 or #3 can be used for the remainder.

2) Your next option is to drain the pool water into your **sewer clean-out** located in front of your home if the following applies:

- You cannot drain all of the pool water onto your personal property
- You have a salt water pool
- You are only backwashing*
- You have a polluted stagnant "green" pool*
- You are discharging water after chlorine shocking or acid washing your pool

WARNING: This process is only recommended for those homes connected to the public sewer system and is **not** recommended for homes that are connected to septic tank systems. Septic tanks are not designed to handle these types of flows. Emptying pool water into a septic tank could result in damage and expensive repairs.

3) Your last option is to drain the water into the **curb or gutter** allowing the drainage to flow into your community's **storm water retention basin** with the following conditions:

- Always make sure that the chemical level of your pool water is as low as possible.
- This method should only be practiced if your street does not generally have flooding problems.
- Make sure your discharge hose is long enough to reach the curb as to prevent erosion of the soil.
- Please do not disturb or flood your neighbor's property when practicing this method.

Option #1 makes the most economic sense of reusing the clean water you've already paid for to benefit your landscape.

Note: Do not install lines to drain your pool as a permanent fixture. This will violate the Town's plumbing code and/or County health regulations.

Note: Using a clean-out in the wall or sending pool water the wrong direction down a clean-out increases the risk of water and/or sewage backing up into the fixtures within your home.

Note: The rate and amount of water being pumped can also cause water and/or sewage to back into the fixtures as well. (Read details in following Paragraph).

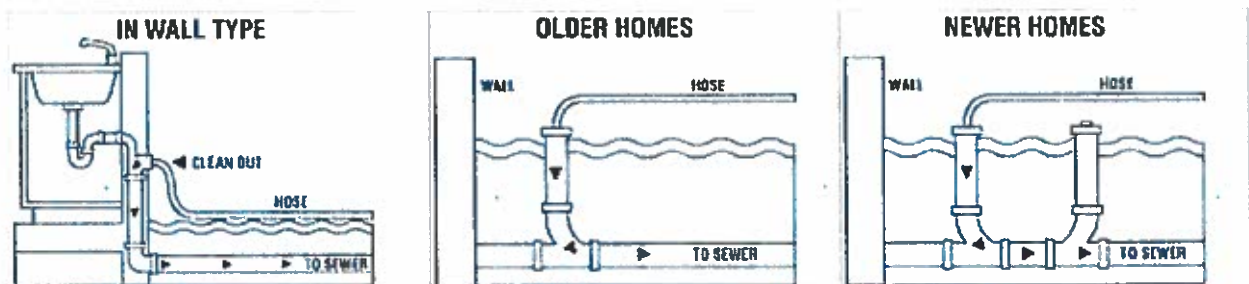
The maximum allowable and recommended discharge rate for pumping into a cleanout is 12 – gpm (Gallons per Minute) or 720- gph (Gallons per Hour). The size of your line will make a difference in the gpm. Testing or monitoring the discharge is recommended to ensure safety. Most pool pumps discharge at a much higher volume. The safest and recommended approach is to use or rent a submersible pump connected to a garden hose and place it in the clean-out. (See the Graph below).

PERMITTING: A Town permit is not required to drain your pool. **You are however required to contact the Town's Utility Service Department at 480.862.6020 48 hours before you plan on draining your pool.** (Please keep in mind our offices are closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday). You may also visit our website at www.queencreek.org and click on [Make a Service Request](#) then Submit. Make sure you provide your address and the date you will be draining your pool.

We would like to remind you that if you fill your pool during the Town's sewer averaging period which ranges between November and February, we recommend you contact our Water Conservation Office @ 480-358-3455 to arrange for a sewer rate adjustment. A pool fill will affect your monthly sewer charge if it is done during the sewer averaging period.

(EXAMPLE)

An Example of the locations of clean-outs at your home and the direction of proper flow

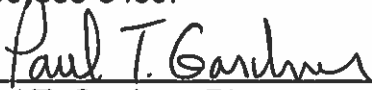


ESTIMATED HOURS REQUIRED TO DRAIN A POOL (Graph)

| Flow rate of pump | | Pool Volume (Gallons) | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (Gal/min) | (gal/hr) | 10,000 | 11,000 | 12,000 | 13,000 | 14,000 | 15,000 |
| 6 | 360 | 28 hrs | 31 hrs | 33 hrs | 36 hrs | 39 hrs | 42 hrs |
| 7 | 420 | 24 hrs | 26 hrs | 29 hrs | 31 hrs | 33 hrs | 36 hrs |
| 8 | 480 | 21 hrs | 23 hrs | 25 hrs | 27 hrs | 29 hrs | 31 hrs |
| 9 | 540 | 19 hrs | 20 hrs | 22 hrs | 24 hrs | 26 hrs | 28 hrs |
| 10 | 600 | 17 hrs | 18 hrs | 20 hrs | 22 hrs | 23 hrs | 25 hrs |
| 11 | 660 | 15 hrs | 17 hrs | 18 hrs | 20 hrs | 21 hrs | 23 hrs |
| 12 | 720 | 14 hrs | 15 hrs | 17 hrs | 18 hrs | 19 hrs | 21 hrs |

Times are estimates only please consult pump manufactures recommendation and specifications for more accurate rates and times.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Greg Homol at (480)358-3459.



Paul T. Gardner, Director
Utilities Services Department

Updated: February 28, 2014