

Why Proper Draining is Important

- The gutters outside of your home lead to the city of Peoria's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), which conveys water directly to the Agua Fria and New Rivers, where plants, wildlife, and aquatic life thrive.
- Chlorinated pool water is harmful to plants, wildlife, and aquatic life.
- Pool water released into the environment is illegal and punishable by law. The federal Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants to rivers and streams.

Helpful Hints

- When you need to backwash your pool filter or drain the pool, try to use the water to irrigate the landscaping on your property.
- Take care when using pool water on landscaping since it contains more salt and chlorine than tap water. Try to avoid adding chemicals to your pool at least 2 days before draining to reduce the amount of chemicals. Bermuda grass and oleanders can be watered without much problem, but avoid using this water on citrus, hibiscus or other salt-sensitive plants. Also, avoid spraying the water directly onto leaves or watering the same area separately. Drain the pool over a few days so the water has time to soak into the ground.
- If you have to drain a large amount of water, such as emptying the entire pool, put it down the home's sewer clean-out.
- The clean-out is usually located next to the house at the point closest to the city sewer line and usually outside a bathroom or the kitchen. On some older homes, the cleanout is located in the wall. On other homes, it is at ground level, but may be hidden by landscaping. Older homes usually have only one opening, while new ones have two clean-out pipes leading to the sewer line. A threaded cap, usually black and 3 to 4 inches in diameter, covers the opening. If your neighborhood has alleys, your clean-out is probably in your backyard. If there is no alley, it may be in the front or side yard.
- If you cannot locate it, or a sidewalk or a patio has covered it, consult a plumber about installing one.



For questions regarding this process, contact the Water Services Department at **623-773-7286** or seek professional assistance from a qualified individual specializing in pool drainage.



While working in and around your pool, be sure children are being supervised. Drowning prevention requires eye-to-eye supervision and working barriers of fence and self-closing, self-latching gates.



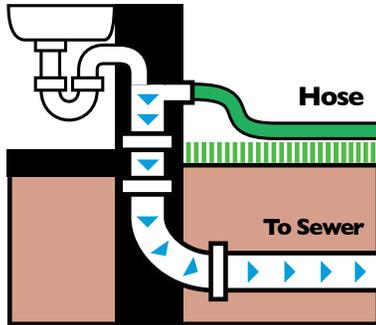
**Neighborhood and
Human Services Department**
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How To Drain and Backwash Your Pool Legally and Safely

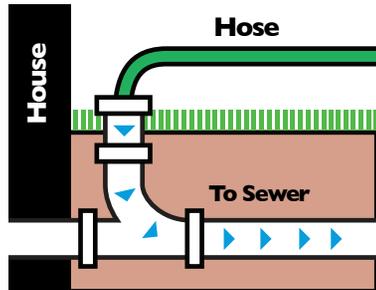
How to Use the Sewer Clean-Out

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 it won't pop out.
4. Turn on the pump.
5. Immediately check to make sure that the water is not backing up into the house. Drains for showers and tubs are the first places to check.
6. If the water backs up, turn off the pump immediately. You may have a blockage, or the flow rate is too high.
7. If you have a blockage, you will need to contact a drain cleaning service.

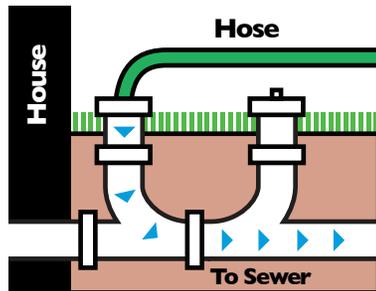
IN-WALL TYPE



OLDER HOMES



NEWER HOMES



Things to Avoid

- Do NOT drain the pool into the street, alleyway or other right-of-way.
- Do NOT drain the pool into a sanitary sewer manhole in the street.
- Do NOT drain the pool into a storm sewer inlet or drainage channel.
- Do NOT drain onto adjacent property, drainage easements and watercourses. Caution: Using a clean-out in the wall is risky and the potential for water backing up into the home is great.

The maximum recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute. 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. Most pool filter pumps will discharge too much water too fast and may cause water to backup into the yard or house. The safest approach is to rent a submersible pump, connect it to a garden hose and slowly empty the pool.

A pump that operates at 700 gallons per hour is about the right size.

Conserving Pool Water

- Cover the pool when not in use to control evaporation. Up to 95% of water loss from evaporation can be saved through the use of a pool cover. For the typical pool, you can save an average of 16,000 gallons of water a year with a cover.
- If you have a pool heater, reduce the temperature, particularly when the pool is not in use.
- Backwash pool filters only when necessary. If the backwash cycle is controlled by a timer, check and adjust the frequency of the cycle to ensure optimal efficiency. Use head loss to determine the backwash frequency (8-10 psi loss). Backwash until the water is clear.
- Where feasible, use filter backwash for irrigating lawns or plants or for cooling tower make-up.
- Lower the pool's water level as much as possible to reduce the amount of water that can be splashed out.
- Check the pool regularly for cracks and leaks and make repairs promptly. If water level drops more than 1 inch per day, investigate for problems or leaks.
- Utilize a pool vacuum that recycles water when cleaning the pool.

HOURS REQUIRED TO DRAIN A POOL

Flow Rate		Pool Volume (Gallons) / Hours it will take to drain a pool					
gal/min	gal/hr	10,000	11,000	12,000	13,000	14,000	15,000
6	360	28	31	33	36	39	42
7	420	24	26	29	31	33	36
8	480	21	23	25	27	29	31
9	540	19	20	22	24	26	28
10	600	17	18	20	22	23	25
11	660	15	17	18	20	21	23
12	720	14	15	17	18	19	21