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) The last option is to drain your swimming pool water or backwash 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 your pool or backwash water is de-chlorinated prior to draining.
- 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 Towns 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).

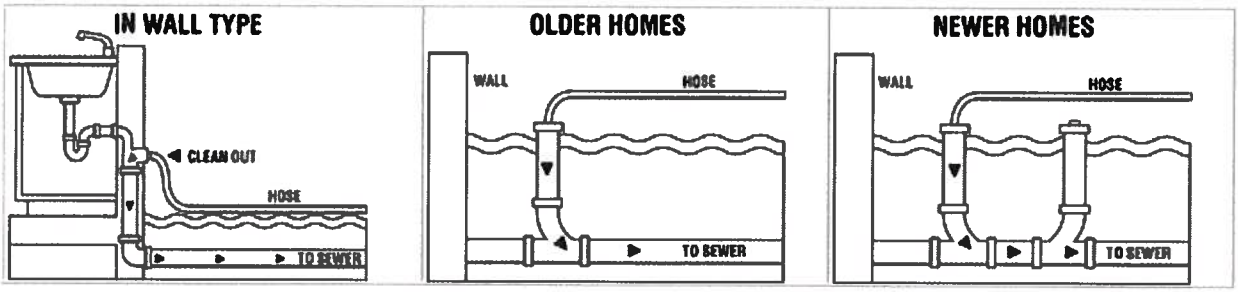
PERMITTING: A Town permit is not required to drain your pool. However, it is helpful if you let the Town know you will be filling your pool. Please contact customer service at 480-358-3450.

REMINDER: If you fill your pool during the Town's sewer averaging period which ranges between the middle of November to the end of February, a pool fill may affect your monthly sewer charge. To avoid a higher sewer charge due to a water leak or pool fill during the sewer averaging period, you must submit a Request for Sewer Fee Adjustment form found online at www.QueenCreek.org/SewerReview or call customer service at 480-358-3450 for further assistance.

For questions on how to drain your pool or which clean out to use, please contact the Town's sewer division at 480-358-3830.

(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 our office at (480)358-3450.

Paul T. Gardner

Paul T. Gardner, Director
Utilities Services Department

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