

Where should I use my backwash water?

Swimming pool and spa backwash water contains chemicals used to control microorganisms and the pH level of the water. Many species of plants are sensitive to these chemicals. However, water from swimming pool and spas can be used to irrigate several salt tolerant plants.

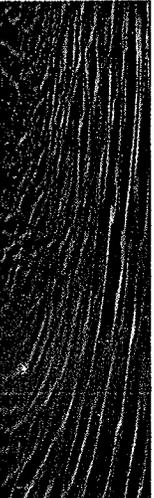
When using backwash water, observe the plants and soil for symptoms of salt accumulation.

For the soil, watch for a dense, hard, cracked appearance or grayish-white color indicating a possible salt accumulation. A common symptom of salt accumulation is slower water infiltration.

For the plants, look for dry, dead areas on the edges and tips of the leaves or a blotched appearance. These may indicate salt accumulation in the soil. However, symptoms can also be caused by a variety of other factors including: disease, herbicides, insects, etc.

To avoid these concerns, remember to move the discharge hose frequently.

A good source of further information on these and related issues is your local Cooperative Extension Agent. Feel free to contact the City of Lake Havasu City, Public Works Department, 453-6660.



The following lists of sensitive, moderately sensitive, and salt tolerant plants provided below are derived from various publications provided by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service.

Salt-tolerant plants: Can use backwash water

- Oleander, Evergreen Euonymas, Rosemary, Bougainvillea, Natal Plum, Texas Ranger, Olive, Native Mesquite, Saltbrush, Aloe, Deer Grass, Bear Grass, Ice Plant, Japanese Honey-suckle, Others ...

Plants sensitive to salt: Do not use backwash water

- Fruit Trees Star Jasmine, Roses, Algerian Ivy, Fraser's Photinia, Chinese Hibiscus, Willow, Hophrush, Jojoba, Others ...

Moderately sensitive plants: Limited use of backwash water

- Glossy Privet, Pyracantha, Lantana, Xylosma, Juniper, Bottlebrush, Most Acacia Species, Palo Verde, Yucca, Others ...

Pool Draining

This flyer has been developed to provide recommendations for appropriately discharging pool and spa water. Two types of discharges occur from pools and spas: filter backwash water, and high-volume discharges from pool and spa emptying. The water released from each activity must be handled differently.

2330 McCulloch Blvd. N.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Phone: 928-453-8660
Fax: 928-453-8502



- **Pool Drainage is allowed to the streets between: 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. seven days a week.**
- **Lake Havasu City Public Works must be contacted if a pool requires emergency draining outside the prescribed hours.**
- Pool Drainage to your own property or an adjacent wash can be done without time restrictions. Draining to the City Sewer is allowed with approval from Wastewater Division at 855-3999.
- If a pool is drained outside the prescribed hours without proper notification appropriate code enforcement process will be initiated.
- Please refer to Ordinance No. 06-808 for detailed restrictions to the Pool Drainage Ordinance.

Pool Draining

Backwash Water: Filter backwashing results in frequent, small quantity releases of impure water from a pool or spa (Approx. 75 gallons). Backwash water commonly contains elevated levels of chlorine and other potential contaminants that may not be released off site. In most cases, the amount of backwash water generated by pools and spas can be readily contained on site. This water can be used to irrigate salt-tolerant plants (see the back of this flyer for further information). Remember to move the discharge hose frequently, because discharging backwash water to one location can create areas of stagnant water, resulting in mosquito infestations.

Pool and Spa Emptying: On occasion, a pool or spa may need to be partially or completely emptied to carry out repairs or to correct water chemistry. This water should be handled differently from backwash water because: 1) discharges of this type are infrequent, 2) the chlorine level in the discharge water is generally lower than in backwash water (no chemical additions should be made for at least three days prior to emptying the pool or spa), and 3) the volume of discharge is significantly greater than backwashing and many pool and spa owners may not have sufficient land area to contain large volumes of water on site.

The pool or spa may be emptied only if the owner adheres to ALL of the following conditions:

- Prior to the discharge, the pool or spa must be allowed to sit for at least 72 hours (3 days) after the last chlorine addition. This will allow the chlorine level to drop prior to the discharge.
 - The pH level of the water must be monitored by the owner and must fall between the range of 7-8 pH. The pH must be measured prior to the discharge and adjusted to the accepted range with standard pool chemicals. The pH must be monitored during the full duration of the discharge and adjusted as necessary. Easy to use pH kits are available at stores that sell pool chemicals.
 - If a pool or spa has been acid washed, this highly acidic water cannot be discharged off site.
 - The discharge water must be clear (not cloudy or discolored) and free of algae, and any contaminants.
 - The discharge should be directed by means of a temporary flexible hose, to a stormdrain, drainage channel, or along the curbline gutter of a paved street to the extent possible. Pool or Spa discharges may not drain into unpaved/strip paved alleys or unpaved/strip paved streets so as to cause erosion.
 - The discharge must be monitored and controlled to ensure that it does not cause erosion of the banks or bottoms of the affected drainage channels.
- At no time shall discharged water run onto any neighbors' property or across a sidewalk!!