


LOCATING THE SANITARY SEWER CLEANOUT

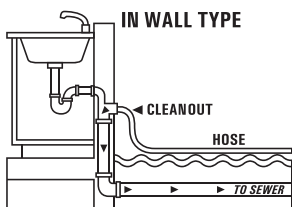
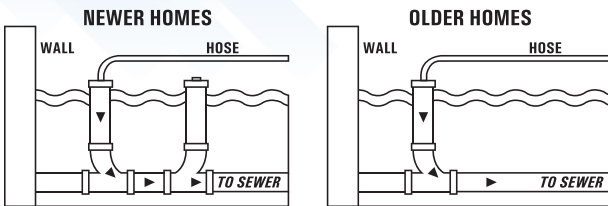
The sanitary sewer cleanout is commonly used by plumbing professionals to clear sewer line backups. Look for a black threaded cap about 3 to 4 inches in diameter with a raised square nut on top. It is typically located outside at ground level next to the house (often outside a bathroom or the kitchen). Look carefully, as it may be hidden by landscaping. Older homes usually have only one opening, while new homes have two cleanout pipes. Some homes may have the cleanout located on an outside wall. See Diagram 1 below.



Sewer cleanouts can often get covered by landscaping.


 If your neighborhood has alleys, your cleanout may be in the backyard.


 If you have trouble locating your sewer cleanout, or have questions on safe flow rates, consult a plumber.



Information and schematic courtesy of the City of Phoenix Water Services Department

Diagram 1. Typical locations of sewer cleanout near your home.

 Do not install the pool or backwash drain line as a permanent fixture. This may violate City plumbing codes or County health regulations and could contaminate the water when you refill the pool.

 Using a cleanout in the wall is risky and the potential for water backing up is increased.


CLEANING POOL AND SPA FILTERS

The same rules will apply when cleaning pool and spa filters. Always be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Cartridge filters should be rinsed over gravel, a lawn or other vegetated area.
- Use a separation tank for diatomaceous earth (DE) and cellulose fiber filters to capture the DE or fibers.



The same guidelines apply when cleaning pool or spa filters.

 Old DE filter or fiber materials can be dried, bagged and placed into your trash receptacle.



Remember, Only Rain
in the
Storm Drain
Visit www.azstorm.org



To learn more about Mesa's Environmental Compliance Programs, visit www.mesaaz.gov/environ or call (480) 644-3599.

How to Drain or Backwash your pool



Hopping into your pool is one of the most refreshing things you can do on those hot Arizona summer days! But, keeping the water safe and inviting for family and friends means proper treatment and maintenance, including occasional backwashing or partial draining. Unfortunately, pool water discharges can contain environmentally harmful pollutants such as excess salts, elevated chlorine and other chemicals, and even nuisances such as mosquito larvae. Below, you'll find our steps and guidelines for draining your pool properly in the City of Mesa. **These guidelines also apply when draining spas and fountains.** It is best to consult a pool professional to determine when it is necessary to drain your pool and how often to do so.

A pool owner may be tempted to discharge pool water into the street and gutter that leads to a storm drain. However, the purpose of the storm drain system is to protect against flooding and water damage by quickly removing rain water from our streets. This water gets no treatment and may ultimately drain into washes, lakes, retention basins, community parks, and can even make its way into the Salt and Gila rivers. This is why the City of Mesa has ordinances and programs to reduce pollutants into our storm drains and why **the disposal of swimming pool water to the City's storm drain system is prohibited.**



Pool water discharge cannot be drained to city streets or the storm drain system.

STOP The ordinance does not allow you to drain pool water into streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, channels, storm drains, and retention basins that are owned and operated by the City.

! It is your responsibility as a property owner to ensure your property is in compliance with City ordinances.

! The storm drain system is completely separate from the sanitary sewer system, which is designed to capture and treat wastewater from sinks, toilets and other sources.

OPTION 1 – YOUR YARD



Use pool water or backwash in your landscape.

This is a great option since it allows you to reuse water you already paid for and could reduce your landscape water use. Drain your pool or spa water to your desert landscape, lawn or rocky areas on your property and allow the water to percolate into the ground. In many cases, this water can be used to irrigate salt-tolerant plants such as oleander, bougainvillea and natal plum or on Bermuda grass lawns. Do not put pool water on roses or fruit trees.

STOP Salt or saline pool water contains higher concentrations of salts that can be more damaging to plants and soils.

STOP Remember to move the drain hose frequently, since water discharge to one location can create stagnant water areas that can attract mosquitoes. Also be sure that the pool water does not flow onto your neighbor's property.

! Notification or a permit is not required by the City of Mesa when draining your pool.



Shrubs like bougainvillea are very salt-tolerant.

OPTION 2 – THE SANITARY SEWER



New homes have two sanitary sewer cleanouts. Always pick the one closest to the home.



Discharging into a sewer cleanout.

You can also drain or backwash your pool into your home's sanitary sewer cleanout. Occasionally, an in-ground pool has a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer. If not, then follow these simple steps.

1. Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property and remove the cap (if there are two, use the one closest to the home – see Diagram 1 on the back panel).
2. Make sure that the pool water is near neutral (pH 6-8), shut off the power to the filtration system at the circuit breaker and turn off the automatic water fill valve if you have one (these steps will not be necessary if you are only backwashing your pool).
3. Run the drainage hose from a submersible pump in the pool to the cleanout pipe and insert the hose a few inches into the pipe. Be sure to secure the drain hose so it won't pop out.
4. Turn on the pump and immediately check to make sure no water is backing up into the house (check shower and tub drains first). If the water backs up, turn off the pump immediately. You may have a blockage, or have the flow rate set too high. The recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute.
5. Replace the sanitary sewer cleanout cover when finished.
6. After draining your pool, refill it as soon as possible since direct sunlight can damage the plaster or lining if left exposed too long.
7. Check for proper chemical levels every day for a week after refilling.

STOP If backwashing into the sewer cleanout, do not allow the passage of soil, sediment, rock, sand, debris or other solid material during the discharge. This could potentially create a sanitary sewer overflow in the street and/or on your property.

STOP Never drain pool water into or toward a sanitary sewer manhole installed in the street.

! Option 2 allows Mesa to treat and reuse the water for landscape irrigation or groundwater recharge.