

DRAINING A SWIMMING POOL

Where do I drain my pool water?

When draining a swimming pool or spa, water should be discharged into a sanitary sewer clean-out on private property. Water should not be discharged into a street or roadway.

Do I need a permit, and are there fees?

A permit is not necessary, and there are no fees associated with draining a residential swimming pool.

What does a sewer clean-out look like?

The sewer clean-out is typically a three or four inch black pipe about level with the landscaping, typically located close to the home in the front yard. It may have a black or white cap, with a raised square nut or a recessed slot, which can be unscrewed providing access for the pool water disposal. In a newer home, you may find that there are two clean-out pipes. In this case, the one closer to the home is the correct discharge point.

What is the procedure for using the sewer clean-out?

- Locate the clean-out. If there are two, use the one closest to the home.
- Remove the cap and insert the drain hose a few inches into the pipe.
- Secure the drain hose so it won't pop out.
- Turn on the pump.
- Immediately check to make sure no water is backing up into the house. Drains for showers and tubs are the first places to check.
- If the water backs up, turn off the pump immediately. You may have a blockage, or the flow rate is too high.
- **Caution:** Using a clean-out in the wall is risky, and the potential for water backing up into the home is great.

Diagrams of typical sewer clean-out:

