



WASTEWATER RECLAMATION  
201 NORTH STONE AVENUE  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1207

JACKSON JENKINS  
DIRECTOR

PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

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To: Pima County Swimming Pool Owners and Pool Maintenance Professionals

**Guidance Letter GL-0027: For Swimming Pool Water Discharges**

This letter is for anyone considering draining a swimming pool into the County's sewer system. Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) allows swimming pool water discharges of less than 15 gallons per minute, provided you follow the instructions below. Any exceptions require permission from the Department. If Pima County is not your provider, we recommend that you check with the towns of Marana and Sahuarita to verify your sewer service provider for information and guidance.

**What equipment do I need to drain my pool into the sewer system?**

Use a pump and hose that will create a flow of no greater than 15 gallons per minute. There are many resources on the internet and swimming pool stores that can help you determine what equipment is appropriate for your location and pool.

**What will happen if too much water enters the sewer system too quickly?**

A flow greater than 15 gallons per minute could create an overflow of sewage onto the ground surface. This overflow condition is called a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (Overflow). If the discharge appears to be causing an Overflow from a Pima County public sewer manhole or cleanout, **stop pumping** and call the **RWRD emergency contact number at (520) 724-3400**. Overflows are a risk to human health and safety and we must be notified immediately to be able to manage them. If your planned swimming pool discharge will be greater than 15 gallons per minute, contact us at (520) 724-6500, Kurt Stemm at (520) 724-6607 or Olivia Cañez at (520) 724-6642 to coordinate the method and timing of the discharge.

Pima County is not responsible for any damages, claims or other impacts resulting either directly or indirectly from residential or commercial discharges of swimming pool water to the Pima County public sewer system.

**Where can the swimming pool water be discharged to the sewer system?**

Use your private sewer lateral cleanout to discharge the swimming pool water. The lateral's cleanout cap is located on your property, between the home and the County sewer system. To protect the public health and safety, Pima County prohibits opening up and discharging swimming pool water into any public manhole and cleanout.

**What time of day is the best for draining my pool?**

Perform the discharge during low-use hours of the sanitary sewer system. Afternoon and late night hours are generally the lowest times in residential areas.

**Who is available to answer questions about swimming pool discharges to the sewer?**

RWRD is responsible for managing the Pima County public sewer system. Pima County does not own all public sewers in the County. If you have any questions regarding the Pima County sewer, please contact us at (520) 724-6500, Kurt Stemm at (520) 724-6607 or Olivia Cañez at (520) 724-6642.

Sincerely,



Jackson Jenkins, Director