



REGULATIONS GOVERNING
Draining Pools & Spas

PINAL COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
P.O. BOX 1610, FLORENCE, AZ. 85232
31 N. PINAL STREET, BLDG. F
(520) 866-6405 FAX (520) 866-6517

INFORMATION
BULLETIN

021

March 7, 2007

REQUIREMENTS FOR DRAINING SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

This bulletin addresses the requirements for two types of discharges: (1) filter backwashing; and (2) swimming pool & spa draining.

Filter Backwash Water

- Backwashing is defined as the rinsing and/or cleaning of cartridge or sand filters. Filter backwashing produces water that may contain elevated levels of chlorine and other pollutants.
- Backwash water may be disposed of (and filters may be rinsed) on the pool/spa owner's property. This should be done in an area that will absorb the water.
- Backwash water shall not be discharged to the sewer system, unless permission has been granted from the sewer provider.

DRAINED SWIMMING POOL & SPA WATER

The draining of swimming pools or spas usually involves a large volume of water with low chlorine levels. Procedures for emptying a pool or spa are as follow:

- a pool or spa may be emptied if it is free of chlorine and other chemicals;
- the pH level of the water must be tested prior to discharge and must fall within a range of 7 to 8;
- discharge water must not be cloudy or discolored and must be free of algae and contaminants;
- water may be discharged off of the owner's property – provided it is directed to a drainage channel, wash, or along the curblin gutter of a paved street;
- the discharge must be monitored to ensure that it does not cause any erosion of the drainage channels or washes; and
- discharge water may be used to irrigate vegetation on the owner's property.

The following restrictions apply to swimming pool and spa discharge activities:

- if a pool or spa has been acid washed, the water may **not** be discharged off the pool/ spa owner's property;
- a pool or spa shall **not** be emptied until the chlorine is \leq 1 part per million (1 milligram/liter);
- discharges may **not** be drained into unpaved/strip-paved alleys or unpaved/strip-paved streets;
- discharges may **not** run onto a neighbor's property or across a sidewalk;
- discharged water may **not** cause erosion or transport sediments; and
- pools/spas may **not** be permanently connected to a storm drain, drainage channel, or wash.