

Using Pool Water on Landscapes

Part of the responsibilities of pool ownership is proper treatment and maintenance which includes backwashing and occasional draining of the water. Because any chlorine in the water is rapidly inactivated by sunlight, it is usually safe and even beneficial to discharge pool water onto your landscape. It's a great way to reuse water you already paid for.

Most desert adapted plants can tolerate an occasional soaking with water from the pool while others may be more sensitive to salts, chemicals used to control microorganisms and the pH level of the water. Watering the same area repeatedly with pool water could build-up an excessive salt level in the soil. To avoid this be sure that the discharge hose is moved to different areas of the yard on rotation.

Here are some tips to using pool water on your landscape.

- Observe the plants and soil for symptoms of salt accumulation. Watch for a dense, hard, cracked appearance to the soil or grayish-white color indicating a possible salt accumulation. A common symptom of salt accumulation is slower water infiltration into the soil. (*Not to be confused with diatomaceous earth from some filters, also grayish-white.*)
- Look for dry, dead areas on the edges and tips of plant leaves or a blotched appearance. These symptoms may indicate salt accumulation in the soil. However, symptoms can also be caused by a variety of other factors including disease, herbicides, or insects.
- To avoid salt buildup, remember to move the discharge hose frequently.
- Avoid spraying pool water directly onto leaves. This could cause yellowing or browning of leaf edges or dropping of entire leaves.
- Drain the water slowly to avoid runoff and to allow the water to soak deeply into the soil.
- Take care that the pool water does not flow onto your neighbor's property.

Plants sensitive to salt: <i>Do not use backwash water</i>	Moderately sensitive to salt: <i>Limited use of backwash water</i>	Salt-tolerant plants: <i>Can use backwash water</i>
Fruit Trees	Glossy Privet	Oleander
Star Jasmine	Pyracantha	Bermuda Grass
Roses	Lantana	Rosemary
Algerian Ivy	Xylosma`	Bougainvillea
Fraser's Photinia	Juniper	Natal Plum
Chinese Hibiscus	Bottlebrush	Texas Ranger (Texas Sage)
Willow	Most Acacia Species	Olive
Hopbush	Palo Verde	Native Mesquite
Jojoba	Yucca	Desert Broom
Queen Palm	Eucalyptus	Saltbush
....others	Sissoo	Aloe
	Chinese Pistache	Deer Grass
	Vitex (Monks Pepper)	Bear Grass
	Red Bird of Paradise	Ice Plant
	Baja Fairy Duster	Japanese Honeysuckle
	Creosote	Evergreen Euonymus
	Citrus	Date Palm
others	Mesquite
		Yellow Bells
		Red Eremphila
	others

The list of sensitive, moderately sensitive, and salt tolerant plants provided above is derived from various publications provided by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service

Save water by not draining your pool! Water restoration systems can eliminate the need to drain the pool by removing calcium from the water. Look for companies that provide this service.

Contact Chandler's Water Conservation Office with irrigation or landscape questions,
www.chandleraz.gov/water