

Using Pool Water on Landscapes

It is usually safe and even beneficial to discharge pool water onto your landscape as long as different areas are watered on rotation. Any chlorine in the water is rapidly inactivated by sunlight. Watering the same area repeatedly with pool water could build-up an excessive salt level in the soil.

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	Evergreen Euonymas
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
Jobba	Yucca	Desert Broom
....others	Citrus	Saltbush
others	Aloe
		Deer Grass
		Bear Grass
		Ice Plant
		Japanese Honeysuckle
		Bermuda Grass
		Date Palm
	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

Here's more information on using pool water on landscapes.

Where should I use my pool/spa drain or backwash water?

Swimming pool and spa backwash water may contain chemicals used to control microorganisms and the pH level of the water. Many species of plants are sensitive to these chemicals. However, water from swimming pools and spas can safely be used to irrigate a number of salt tolerant plants.

When using backwash water, observe the plants and soil for symptoms of salt accumulation:

- **For the soil**, watch for a dense, hard, cracked appearance or grayish-white color indicating a possible salt accumulation. A common symptom of salt accumulation is slower water infiltration into the soil.
- **For the plants**, look for dry, dead areas on the edges and tips of the 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.

Save water by not draining your pool!

Some of the latest technology includes portable water restoration systems that are brought onsite and eliminate the need to drain the pool. Consider two local companies who provide this service (using slightly different technologies).

- Aqualabz (EcoKlear) at 480-894-8164 or visit www.aqualabz.com
- Calsaway at 602-741-2315 or visit www.calsaway.com