

Water Safety Month 2023

Chemical Handling

Pool chemicals are required to keep pools safe for swimming, however for operators, pool chemicals can be the most dangerous part of the job. *Only allow those who have been trained in pool chemical safety practices to handle pool chemicals.

What to do when Handling Chemicals

- ✓ Always use personal protective equipment when handling chemicals
- ✓ Check chemical levels before adjusting chemicals - You do not want to handle or add unnecessary chemicals into a body of water.
- ✓ Read Labels- Always know what chemicals you are handling. Labels also will give instructions for specific products.
- ✓ Pour slowly- If you add liquid chemicals too quickly to other liquids, they could splash up and you could get chemicals on your skin or in your eyes.
- ✓ Work in an area with well ventilation- Some pool chemicals have harmful fumes so you want to make sure to have sufficient ventilation to avoid breathing in the fumes.
- ✓ Add chemicals when the pool is on and water is circulating.
- ✓ Make sure no swimmers are in the water.
- ✓ If mixing with water- add the product to the water, never water to the product.
- ✓ If large quantities of chemicals are required- work in stages.

What not to do when Handling Chemicals

- > Rush through adding chemicals
- > Handle chemicals in a dimly lit areas- If you can't see well, you risk making errors, misreading labels, spilling, etc
- > Have a cluttered chemical area- this can lead to spills, trips and falls.
- > Move chemicals into other storage containers- Chemical manufacturers put chemicals into containers for a reason. Those containers can block out sunlight, air, moisture, etc..
- > Think all chemicals come in the same container everytime- Manufacturers and chemical suppliers change containers often. This includes the color of the container.
- > Ignore instructions or procedures.

Common Injuries from Swimming Pool Chemicals

Respiratory Problems

- Asthma
- Sore throat
- Coughing
- Headache

Eye Damage

- Itching
- Redness
- Burning
- Blindness

Burns

- Itching
- Redness
- Skin irritation

Other issues

- Vomiting
- Death

Personal Protective Equipment

- Safety Goggles
- Face Shield
- Gloves
- Closed Toes Shoes
- A Respirator
- Protective Clothing