

Pool Chemical Safety

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.

Personal Protective Equipment

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

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