

TAKE THE PLUNGE FOR POOL CHEMICAL SAFETY

The City of San Diego Household Hazardous Materials Program

Keeping a swimming pool clean and healthy is a big challenge. Even with modern pool chemicals, reading all those labels can be confusing. But if you follow some simple guidelines, you can learn how to use, store and dispose of pool chemicals properly. This prevents accidents and injuries and protects the environment. It's easy to go with the flow and become a smart "home environmentalist!"

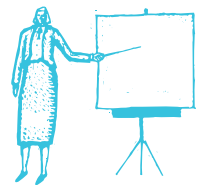
Pool Chemicals Provide For Safe Recreation But Can Be Dangerous

Pool chemicals work hard to control bacteria, algae and fungus in swimming pool water. If mishandled, however, these same chemicals can be dangerous. Some pool chemicals are incompatible and mixing them can result in hazardous fumes or strong reactions. For example, mixing muriatic acid with a chlorine-based disinfectant creates a potentially dangerous chlorine gas. Protect yourself and your family by carefully reading and following product labels. Look for words like WARNING, DANGER, CAUTION, REACTIVE, FLAMMABLE and CORROSIVE on the label. If you have doubts about using two chemicals together, read the label and contact a pool chemical supplier for guidance.



Use Pool Chemicals Safely

Follow these easy steps when using pool chemicals to keep you and your family safe:



- Educate your family about the potential dangers of pool chemicals. Only allow adults to handle and use these chemicals.



- Use protective equipment when handling chemicals including rubber gloves and a plastic apron. Wear goggles or a face shield to protect your eyes.
- Avoid inhaling fumes. Handle or mix chemicals in the open air or in a well ventilated area.
- Immediately wash any part of your body that comes in contact with pool chemicals for at least 15 minutes with running water. Seek medical attention, if appropriate.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers on hand.
- Avoid pool test kits for total chlorine that contain *ortho*-tolidine, as *ortho*-tolidine is a possible carcinogen.



Common Pool Chemicals

CHEMICAL	FUNCTION	POSSIBLE HAZARDS
Algicides	Eliminate algae	Poison
Oxidizers	Control bacteria buildup in pool water. Example: Chlorine	Direct contact can result in burns to eyes and skin
Acids	Balance the pH and correct a high total alkalinity of pool water. Example: muriatic acid, sodium bisulfate	Vapors are harmful to respiratory system; direct skin contact results in burns
Baking Soda (Sodium Bicarbonate)	Corrects a low total alkalinity of pool water. Form: powder	
Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate)	Raises the total alkalinity and pH of pool water. Form: powder	Direct skin contact can cause irritation

Store Pool Chemicals Safely

Keeping pool chemicals in a safe place is just as important as handling them safely. Proper storage ensures product quality and household safety.

- Keep pool chemicals out of the reach of children.
- Store pool chemicals in a cool and dry place away from other chemicals and equipment used around the house, such as gardening and lawn maintenance equipment.



- Keep all pool chemicals tightly covered in their original containers. Do not stack or store incompatible chemicals on top of each other. Keep containers upright.

- Do not combine different pool chemicals in the same container for storage. This may create a fire hazard.

Be A Smart Consumer



When you purchase pool chemicals and pool testing chemicals, take time to follow these simple steps:

- Buy only a six month supply. After six months, these chemicals begin to decompose at room temperature and lose strength. Old test chemicals will give inaccurate test results.
- Mark the purchase date on the original container to help recall how fresh the contents

THE HOME ENVIRONMENT

No. 7 OF A SERIES



TAKE THE PLUNGE FOR POOL CHEMICAL SAFETY

The City of San Diego Household Hazardous Materials Program

Household Hazardous Materials Program Hotline..... **235-2111**
 (All other areas)..... 1-(800) 246-1233
Used Oil Infoline..... **235-2105**
Recycling Hotline: Paper, Glass, Cans..... **467-0903**
 (All other areas)..... 1-(800) 237-2583
Paint for Graffiti Removal
 Paint Exchange Bank..... 527-3431
 (All other areas)..... 1-(800) 246-1233

The City of San Diego
 Household Hazardous Materials Program
 450 A Street, Suite 500
 San Diego, CA 92101

are. Check your garage or storage shed two times a year for outdated pool chemicals and the condition of the containers.

- Drain pool water every three or four years, and replenish with fresh water. Replenishing the water helps to reduce the amount of chemicals needed to maintain pool water quality.

Dispose Of Pool Chemicals Properly

Throwing outdated pool chemicals and other household hazardous wastes in the trash can endanger the environment and refuse collectors - and it's against the law! Take household hazardous wastes, including pool chemicals, to a citywide household hazardous waste collection event. For information on collection events, call the Household Hazardous Materials Program Hotline at **235-2111**. For information on used oil recycling options, call the Used Oil Infoline at **235-2105**.



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The City of San Diego Environmental Services and Metropolitan Wastewater Departments and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.



Health Information



Emergencies..... **911**
Poison Control Center..... **543-6000**
Indoor Air Pollution:
 American Lung Association..... 297-3901

Reporting Hazards

Air Emissions:
 Air Pollution Control District..... 694-3340
 Oil-Burning, Smoking Vehicles..... 1-(800)-28-SMOKE

Illegal dumping of hazardous waste:
 County Dept. of Environmental Health..... 338-2284
 Storm Water Pollution Hotline..... 533-3793

Pesticides:
 County Agricultural Commissioner..... 694-2739
 Internet: www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/

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