



Safely Handling Pool Chemicals

Aquatic facilities use and store many types of chemicals for cleaning, disinfection and sanitation. Handling and storage practices are crucial to preventing accidents and injuries. It is strongly recommended that staff handling chemicals be a Certified Pool Operator ([CPO](#)) or equivalent and at least 18 years of age. At a minimum, staff must be aware of chemical properties and trained to follow safe handling practices like the following:

Do:

- Read the product label and Safety Data Sheet ([SDS](#)).
- Maintain good housekeeping practices.
- Keep chemical product containers closed and in original labeled container.
- Store chemicals in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place away from sunlight.
- Chemicals should be kept locked up in a secure area.
- Ensure appropriate [hazardous chemical signage](#) is posted.
- Separate incompatible chemicals. (For example, acid and chlorine)
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment ([PPE](#)) as listed on label.
- Use up all product before disposal of container. Never reuse containers.
- Notify supervisor in case of an emergency.
- Keep spilled materials isolated, follow label directions for clean-up and disposal.
- Add each pool and spa chemical separately.
- Have an [emergency plan](#) and conduct [regular drills](#).

Don't:

- Dispose of spilled material or unused product in the TRASH or SEWER. *
- Store liquid materials above solid materials to prevent accidental contact (for example, by leaking) with chemicals or substances stored below them.
- Allow products to contact oil, grease, acid or organic material.
- Smoke where pool chemicals are stored or used.
- Use floor sweeping compounds when cleaning up pool chemicals.
- Put spilled materials back in the original container.
- Use dry chemical fire extinguishers. (Use water only!)
- Mix with any other chemicals, materials, or pool/spa products.
- Dispose of chemical product container without washing & drying completely.

* Use or dispose per label directions. Contact your local solid waste, health, or environmental agency for proper disposal information.

Laminated posters can be [ordered for FREE](#) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). Click [HERE](#) to download a PDF of the poster.

More information is available at the Safe-Wise Consulting [Online Resource Library](#).