

POOL CHEMICAL USE & STORAGE

POOL CHEMICAL BASICS

LOTS OF WATER=GOOD LITTLE WATER=BAD

Pool Chemicals are:

- Oxidizers/Highly Reactive to Water
 - Can generate high heat
 - Can create toxic gas
- Corrosive to metals

POOL CHEMICAL HEALTH HAZARDS

- Contact can severely irritate and burn the eyes and skin
- Low exposures can irritate the nose and throat
- Higher exposures may cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath

RESOURCES

- 2009 International Fire Code
- National Fire Protection Association Standards 10 & 430
- Environmental Protection Association Safe Storage and Handling of Swimming Pool Chemicals
www.epa.gov/oem/docs/chem/spalert.pdf

This pamphlet is a summary of the basics for pool chemical storage and use. For specific details refer to the MSDS (www.msds.com) and manufacturer directions for your specific chemicals



Vancouver Fire Department
Fire Marshal's Office
7110 NE 63rd Street
Vancouver WA 98661
360.487.7260
www.vanfire.org

STORAGE AREAS

- **Keep storage areas cool and dry**
- **Permit Required** (IFC 105.6.20)
 - Class II solids over 100 pounds needs permit
 - Maximum allowed 250 lbs
 - ex. Calcium hypochlorite under 50% chlorine
 - Class III solids over 10 pounds needs permit
 - Maximum allowed 10 lbs
 - Calcium hypochlorite over 50% chlorine
- **Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS)** Shall be included with permit application and maintained onsite. (IFC 2701.5.2)
- **Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)** for all hazardous materials shall be readily available on the premises. (IFC 2703.4)
- **Identification** (IFC 2703.5)
 - Individual containers of hazardous materials, cartons or packages shall be marked or labeled
 - Hazard Identification Signs shall be placed at the entrances to locations where hazardous materials are stored, used or handled. (NFPA 704)
 - All storage areas containing oxidizers shall be identified as to the hazard class by the words "Class [appropriate classification number] Oxidizers. Refer to MSDS. (NFPA 430)
- **Only water-type fire extinguishers** shall be installed. Multipurpose dry chemical fire extinguishers are prohibited. (NFPA 10)
- **No Smoking Signs** posted and smoking shall be prohibited. (IFC 2703.7.1)
- **Separation of Incompatible materials** is required. Refer to MSDS for information. (IFC 2703.9.8)



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR POOL CHEMICALS

DO

- Read and follow instructions carefully
- Protect chemicals from moisture and water
- Keep containers closed when not in use
- Use separate, clean metal or plastic measuring cups for each chemical to transfer or measure
- Wear appropriate protective equipment and clothing including gloves and footwear
- Separate incompatible substances (see MSDS)
- Make chemical storage area housekeeping a priority
- Know what to do in the event of a leak, spill or fire
- Only clean pool areas with cleaners that are compatible with pool chemicals
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling

DO NOT

- Do not use contents of unlabeled containers
- Do not put pool chemicals in unlabeled containers
- Do not mix different chemicals together
- Do not mix old chemicals with fresh chemical, even if they are the same type
- Do not put spilled chemicals back into their containers
- Avoid touching the undiluted chemicals with your hands
- Do not smoke when handling chemicals
- Do not expose to heat or flame
- Do *not* store pool chemicals with incompatible or flammable materials, such as gasoline, oil, grease, fertilizer, herbicides, paint, solvents (for example, turpentine), oily rags, and alcohol
- If a fire breaks out, leave the area and call the fire department. Do not use a dry chemical extinguisher.