

*Working for Healthy People and
Healthy Communities*



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Safe Swimming Pools

*Tips for using Swimming
Pool Chemicals Safely*



The Atlantic County Division of Public Health

The same chemicals that keep swimming pools clean and clear all summer long, can also cause serious damage or injury if used improperly.

Most people have heard that it is not safe to mix bleach and ammonia – but it is also unsafe to mix a number of other pool chemicals. Consider these sobering stories:

- The Atlantic County Division of Public Health responded to an incident where a person had used the same scoop to add both algaecide and chlorine to a pool. After adding the algaecide, the person rinsed the scoop in the pool water. When chlorine was added to the scoop, it exploded.
- Another Atlantic County resident decided to use a bucket which originally contained chlorine to mop a floor. The individual rinsed the bucket with water and added household cleaner – the bucket exploded.

Fortunately, neither one of these county residents was harmed. However, these incidents should be an important reminder to us that all chemicals can be dangerous and should always be used with caution.

The best way to avoid dangerous chemical reactions is to use safer substitutes for pool chemicals. Ask your pool supply vendor if these alternative products are right for you.

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Whatever you use to treat your pool, follow these simple guidelines to minimize harmful chemical reactions:

- Use separate scoops for each substance you add to the pool.
- Make sure that the first chemical you add has been dispersed into the pool water before adding another chemical.
- Never mix substances together before adding them to a pool.
- Store each pool chemical in a different location that is cool, dry, and well ventilated.

Follow these safety guidelines when using pool chemicals:

- Never inhale fumes or allow products to get in your eyes, ears, nose or mouth. In the event of accidental contact, follow emergency advice on the product label and call your doctor and/or the poison control hotline at 1-800-222-1222.
- Keep children away from all pool chemicals. Store chemicals securely and keep children away when chemicals are being added to the pool.
- Keep emergency phone numbers close to all phones, including the poison control hotline: 1-800-222-1222.