



Pool Chemical Safety Fact Sheet

Labeling, separation and containment, and careful chemical handling and feeding are simple steps pool operators can take to prevent chemical accidents and injuries. We'll describe each of these below.

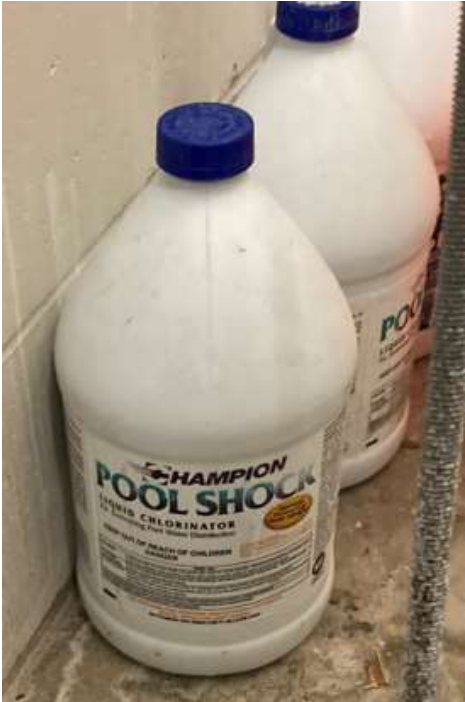
Labeling

Proper labeling can help ensure that everyone knows what is in each container, so that the wrong chemical is not added by accident. Adding disinfectant to an acid container or acid to a disinfectant container can cause a dangerous release of chlorine gas.

Make sure the label information is clearly visible including:

- Name of product
- Manufacturer name and address
- Active ingredients
- Directions for use
- Hazardous ingredient warning
- For sanitizers or algaecides, EPA registration number

Figure 1, Examples of proper labels



Separation and Containment

Separation and containment help to prevent chemicals from leaking and causing damage or injury, and from mixing with each other to cause the release of dangerous gases. Disinfectants and acids must be separated as much as possible. It is strongly recommended that either acid or disinfectant have an additional ('secondary') containment.

A few examples of containment:

- Placing into over-pack drums (see figure 2)
- Curbing in the same room
- Construction such as using separate rooms that have curbing or other means of secondary containment



Figure 2, example of containment

Careful Chemical Handling and Feeding

The first step for safe chemical handling is to read the label and instructions for use and make sure to store and use the chemical according to instructions. Each chemical has a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) that goes with it. The SDS contains detailed information about how to safely use the product.

- Be sure to read the instructions for the chemical feeder, and only use chemicals designed for use in that feeder. Only feed chemicals from their proper container or feeder; do not feed chemicals elsewhere in the pool, piping, or the skimmer or strainer basket.
- Make sure maintenance and delivery personnel have a clear understanding of where each chemical should be filled or placed. Be aware of new maintenance and delivery staff and communicate to confirm they know where to fill chemicals.
- Follow the instructions for adding chemicals exactly.
- Chlorine, bromine, and liquid acid must be added to a pool via a feeder. Other chemicals may be added to the pool basin, but only when no one is in the pool and if the pool water is tested before use. Chemicals should never be added to the pool via the skimmers or gutters (Figure 3b).
- Make sure no one is in the pool any time maintenance is done on the recirculation system, or chemicals are added to the pool basin.

Figure 3a. Each feeder has a specific chemical(s) that can be used



Figure 3b. Placing chemicals in skimmers or gutters is not an approved method of adding chemicals to the pool.

