

*Working for Healthy People and
Healthy Communities*



201 South Shore Road
Northfield, NJ 08225
www.aclink.org/publichealth

Clinical Services—609-645-5933
Environmental Health—609-645-5971
Health Planning & Education—609-645-5935
Substance Abuse Services—609-645-5932

Atlantic County Executive
Dennis Levinson

Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Frank D. Formica, Chairman

Atlantic County Health Officer
Pat Diamond

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:

- In 1997, 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 all that chemicals can be dangerous and should always be used with caution.

The best way to avoid dangerous chemical reactions is use safer substitutes for pool chemicals.

The Atlantic County Division of Public Health

Talk with your pool supply vendor to see if these alternative products are right for you.

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.
- If you are exposed to a chemical reaction, seek medical attention immediately.
- Keep children away from all pool chemicals. Store chemicals securely and keep children away while adding chemicals to your pool.
- Store each pool chemical in a different area. For example, store chlorine in a shed and algaecide in a garage.
- Keep emergency phone numbers close to all telephones. Remember the poison control hotline: 1-800-222-1222.

For more information about chemical safety, call the Atlantic County Division of Public Health, Environmental Health Unit at 609-645-5971.