

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and Chemical Handling for pool staff

In compliance with federal, state, and county regulating agencies Reston Association has adopted a chemical handling management plan for Aquatics department employees to make you aware of the possible chemical and safety hazards at the pool. Please read the following information carefully and complete the quiz in your hiring packet.

The Reston Association (RA) chemical handling plan administrator is Willa Whitacre. Aquatics Program Manager. All safety concerns or questions about the procedures should be directed to her.

SDS for pool chemicals are kept in a binder on the back of the pump room door **AND** in the last section of the pool manual. All employees must know these two locations and can be asked by county health department or Fire Marshall personnel to name the locations of the SDS.

Unlike the previous Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) which varied from one chemical to the next and were difficult to read, the new Safety Data Sheets are required to be presented in a consistent user-friendly, 16-section format. On the following page you will find a graphic provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that explains the 16 sections included on a SDS. Sections for pool staff to know are 1-8 which include; the chemical name, whether it is hazardous, what it is made of, what first aid to use if exposed, what to do if the chemical catches fire, what to do if you spill it, where to store it and, how to protect yourself when using/handling. Sections 9-16 are the responsibility of RA as the employer and, in some cases, the responsibility of the company from which we purchase the chemical.

Chemicals located at the pool facilities include (but are not limited to) the following;

Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid chlorine)	Calcium Hypochlorite (tablet chlorine)	Bromine
Sodium Bicarbonate (baking soda)	Scouring/powder cleanser	Muriatic acid
Test kit reagents	Pine scented cleanser	Foam soap

Every staff member is permitted to conduct the hourly water quality test using the instructions provided inside the test kit lid however only staff age 16 and older may enter the pump room and chemical storage areas and only licensed pool operators age 18 or over may administer chemicals to the pool water or adjust automated controls to administer chemicals. Licensed operators age 16 and 17 may operate the circulation and filtration systems (backwash, clean strainers, manipulate water flow) but cannot influence chemicals in any way.

When licensed, 18+ year old, operators are directly handling chemicals all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) listed on the SDS is required. PPE is store, primarily, inside the pump room at each facility however some pools have secure chemical storage in the lifeguard office and PPE is also located there at those sites. In the event that any PPE is damaged or missing pool staff must notify their direct supervisor right away (Lifeguards report to their manager on duty, Managers report to Unit Manager).

Reading this booklet and completing the required quiz is only the first step in your training regarding chemical handling. Additional training on how to complete hourly water tests and, if allowed, how to administer chemicals will be conducted on-site. Employees are responsible for the knowledge contained in this information booklet and for successfully completing the quiz as part of their hiring paperwork.

Employees found in violation of safety standards through the misuse or nonuse of equipment and/or improper chemical handling are subject to consequences including termination.



Hazard Communication Safety Data Sheets

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) requires chemical manufacturers, distributors, or importers to provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) (formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDSs) to communicate the hazards of hazardous chemical products. As of June 1, 2015, the HCS will require new SDSs to be in a uniform format, and include the section numbers, the headings, and associated information under the headings below:

Section 1, Identification includes product identifier; manufacturer or distributor name, address, phone number; emergency phone number; recommended use; restrictions on use.

Section 2, Hazard(s) identification includes all hazards regarding the chemical; required label elements.

Section 3, Composition/information on ingredients includes information on chemical ingredients; trade secret claims.

Section 4, First-aid measures includes important symptoms/ effects, acute, delayed; required treatment.

Section 5, Fire-fighting measures lists suitable extinguishing techniques, equipment; chemical hazards from fire.

Section 6, Accidental release measures lists emergency procedures; protective equipment; proper methods of containment and cleanup.

Section 7, Handling and storage lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatibilities.

Section 8, Exposure controls/personal protection lists OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs); Threshold Limit Values (TLVs); appropriate engineering controls; personal protective equipment (PPE).

Section 9, Physical and chemical properties lists the chemical's characteristics.

Section 10, Stability and reactivity lists chemical stability and possibility of hazardous reactions.

Section 11, Toxicological information includes routes of exposure; related symptoms, acute and chronic effects; numerical measures of toxicity.

Section 12, Ecological information*

Section 13, Disposal considerations*

Section 14, Transport information*

Section 15, Regulatory information*

Section 16, Other information, includes the date of preparation or last revision.

*Note: Since other Agencies regulate this information, OSHA will not be enforcing Sections 12 through 15(29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(2)).

Employers must ensure that SDSs are readily accessible to employees.

See Appendix D of 1910.1200 for a detailed description of SDS contents.