



# Tip of the Month

## June 2010

### Pool Chemicals

With summer fast approaching, people are bringing out their pool cleaning kits and getting their pools ready for the warmer weather. Traditional pool cleaning kits contain hazardous chemicals like chlorine, acids, bases and neutralizers. These chemicals should be disposed of in a safe manner. Chemical reactions involving pool chemicals can create hazardous gases and become fire hazards at local landfills.

Currently, there are very few options for safe disposal of pool chemicals in British Columbia. The best option is to avoid using hazardous pool chemicals or only buying what you need. Some regional districts and municipalities operate household hazardous waste round-ups or household hazardous waste depots. Contact the RCBC Recycling Hotline to find out if your regional district or municipality is one of them.

To avoid the hassles of pool chemical disposal, you may want to consider these less toxic alternatives to chlorine and other traditional pool chemicals:

- Switch your swimming pool from a chlorine system to a salt water system. Salt water systems are not free of chlorine but reduce the need to add additional chlorine. The salt, NaCl, is broken down via electrolysis to produce chlorine-containing sanitizing agents. Furthermore, salt water evaporates slower than chlorine water.
- Use a copper ionization system instead of a chlorine system to kill algae and bacteria buildup. Copper ionization systems add copper ions to the water. These copper ions are safe for humans but deadly to bacteria, algae and certain viruses.
- Try biodegradable, non-toxic enzyme cleaners. They are carried by some specialty hardware stores. Can't find it at your local hardware store? Ask them to supply it!

For additional information, contact the RCBC Recycling Hotline, Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm at 604-RECYCLE (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-667-4321 (province-wide). Friday 9am to 4pm at 604-RECYCLE (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-667-4321 (province-wide).

#### Need more information?

Contact the **RCBC Recycling Hotline!**

Lower Mainland: 604-732-9253 | BC Toll-Free: 1-800-667-4321

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Recyclepedia: [www.rcbc.bc.ca](http://www.rcbc.bc.ca)