

SAY NO TO CHLORINE

The evidence is coming from all over: using chlorine for pool water purification poses threats to human health – especially for children. Never mind the red eyes, irritation to nose and throat, the horrible smell, chlorinated water can cause asthma and other chronic respiratory ailments. It has even been linked to some forms of cancer.

It's not just the way chemicals react with organic compounds in the water to create toxic by-products, they are themselves downright dangerous. Here's a recent story from Florida, the Sunshine State, where the hot climate means that people spend a lot of time in or around the pool. CBS Channel 12 reports “an important message about pool safety. Precise measurements of pool chemicals are critical. Too much of one chemical or too little of another can cause illness and even death.”

The report includes an interview with Dr John Benetez, Head of Toxicology at Vanderbilt University. “Pool chemicals, if not handled properly, can be toxic.” He then reveals that over 5,000 people in the United States are hospitalized each year due to accidents with pool chemicals. The news bulletin concludes with this statement: “If you have concerns about the safety of your pool, you can always call **YOUR LOCAL POISON CENTRE.**”



[Click on the video to view a short film about swimming pool chemical security](#)

Here's another case from Southampton in England, where the sun doesn't shine so much but people still appreciate the joys of owning a swimming pool. According to a recent news story: "A family have been treated for gas inhalation after a small chemical explosion in their swimming pool. Chemicals were being prepared to put in the pool in the plant room at the house. The mixing caused an explosion at around 7.15pm and released a small amount of gas, thought to be chlorine. A husband and wife and their young son, aged around 12, were treated at the scene by South Central Ambulance Service for gas inhalation and taken to hospital."

Here's another report from Knoxville: "A recent incident at World's Fair Park has parents concerned about the safety of local splash pads and fountains. 19 children were hospitalized because of exposure to chlorine bleach in the splash pads. They were treated for skin and eye irritation. In light of the incident, 6 News decided to find out how the chlorine levels in water features around our area measure up." The results were not very reassuring. In most cases, the chlorine levels were more than double the safety limit, exposing children to serious health hazards.

The anecdotal evidence is overwhelming: chlorine is an outdated technology for swimming pool water purification. It is dangerous to handle and hazardous to health. This is why we support the international campaign: Say No To Chlorine. Tell your family. Tell your friends. There is a better, safer alternative.