

## Should you use last year's chemicals?

Don't feel too smug about that pool shed full of swimming pool chemicals left over from last summer! While some products do indeed "winter over," others may pose hazards or at best be totally useless. Follow this handy guide to determine which of your leftover chemicals are worth reusing.

- Liquid chlorine has a relatively short shelf life and will have lost most potency. Consider it useless.
- Muriatic acid winters well and can still be used for acid washing and PH control.
- Sequa Sol (a stain protectant) and Algimycin 2000 (an algaecide) winter fairly well, although Sequa Sol may have crystallized and the algaecide may have thickened.
- Test reagents, regardless of storage conditions, should be replaced each spring.
- Solid chemicals tend to pick up moisture over long storage periods. Although they may have become a bit lumpy, soda ash, sodium bisulfate (dry acid), and D.E. (diatomaceous earth) should do their jobs.
- You should always be careful when opening solid chlorine containers, but be *especially* careful when opening old containers. Keep your face well away from the container to avoid contact with chlorine gases that can build up over the winter.