

# Disposal of Acid Wash Water

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Acid washing is a common practice by pool professionals to prepare pools for new plaster, removal of stains or to remove scale build-up. Precautions must be taken to protect the technician and the environment from harmful effects of muriatic acid.

## II. PROCEDURES

- The technician should wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) not only during the acid washing procedure, but also during the disposal or cleaning up of a spill. Recommended PPE includes the following:
  - Rubber, neoprene gloves
  - Splash goggles
  - Appropriate air purifying respiratory device
  - Protective footwear and clothing
- The acid wash water should be neutralized to pH 7 using approximately 7.5 lbs of sodium bicarbonate for each gallon of muriatic acid used. The sodium bicarbonate should be added very slowly to control the release of gas which will cause bubbling and fuming.
- Local, state and federal guidelines should be identified and followed. Disposal of neutralized acid wash water into sanitary or storm drains may not be permitted. If an acceptable disposal area is not designated by state or local authorities, discharging into an open, grassy area may be an option.