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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Consumer Alert: Pool Chlorine Test Results

Phoenix, AZ - The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) is issuing a consumer alert after recent testing revealed a high failure rate in liquid pool chlorine products sold across the state. With Arizona's scorching summer temperatures and high pool usage, ensuring your pool water is properly sanitized is crucial, and that starts with effective chlorine.

During the busy 4th of July holiday, the AZDA's Environmental and Consumer Protection Division sampled 22 batches of liquid pool chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) from various retailers during their routine testing of products in order to protect customers. The results were concerning: 17 of the 22 samples (a 77% failure rate) contained less chlorine than their labels guaranteed. Two samples were particularly low, testing at under 6% chlorine, a concentration typically found in common household bleach. Once the failures are detected, the AZDA issues a stop sale order, and refers the findings to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We want Arizonans to be informed so they can make smart decisions about their pool maintenance," said AZDA Director Paul Brierley. "When you're buying liquid pool chlorine, you expect to get what the label promises. Our tests show that's not always the case, and this can lead to un-sanitized pools and wasted money as consumers add more and more product to compensate."

What You Need to Know:

- **Heat Degrades Chlorine:** Liquid chlorine is highly sensitive to heat and sunlight. When stored improperly, its strength diminishes rapidly.
- **Ask Questions:** Before you buy, ask retailers:
 - "What steps do you take to preserve the quality of the liquid pool chlorine?"
 - "When was this product delivered, and how much do you typically sell?"
- **Look for Fresh Stock:** Products that move quickly, even from outdoor nursery areas, might still be good if they haven't been sitting for long.
- **Consider Granular Chlorine:** During the peak summer heat, granular chlorine products may be a more stable alternative as they have a much longer shelf life.
- **Test Your Pool Regularly:** Regardless of the type of chlorine you use, remember to regularly test your pool's pH and alkalinity, as both liquid and granular products can affect these levels.

The AZDA's goal is to empower consumers. If your pool water isn't responding as expected to your usual chlorine routine, this alert offers a potential explanation and provides helpful questions to ask when you purchase chlorine. Being a smart shopper and ensuring your store is a "good steward" of its chlorine stock by keeping it cool and fresh will help you maintain a healthy and safe swimming environment all summer long.