

FLAMMABLES

Safe Handling, Storage and Disposal

Flammables are liquids or gases that burn at temperatures under 100° F. Since that is close to room temperature, there is always a great danger of flammables catching fire or exploding. Handling, storing and disposing must be done carefully to prevent serious accidents.

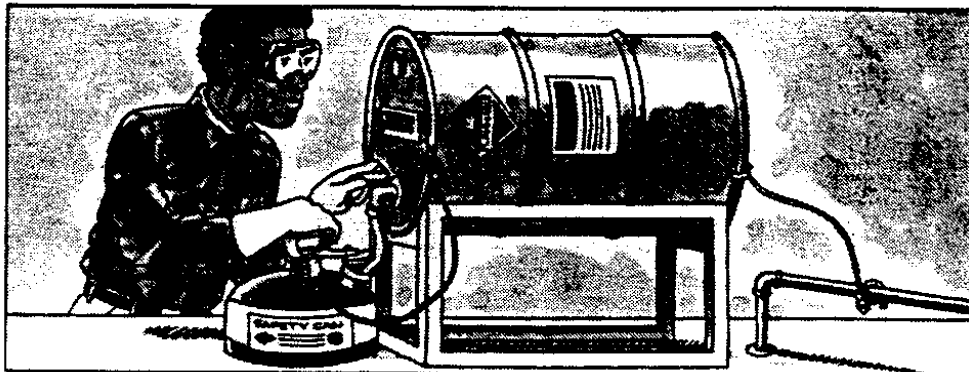
Read the MSDS First

Before handling a flammable chemical, always read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Container labels provide helpful information, but the MSDS is much more complete. It includes guidelines about handling, storage, disposal, first aid, and emergencies.

Each flammable is different, although most evaporate quickly. Some explode when they are near even tiny sparks. Some explode simply on contact with air. When you read the MSDS, you'll know just how to work with the particular chemical.



Dispose of flammables in approved containers.



Use grounding and bonding wires when transferring flammables from one container to another.

Use common sense around flammables. Never smoke, cut or weld when you are near them. Don't mix a flammable with another chemical unless instructed to do so. Wear the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and use all suggested ventilation systems.

Static electricity can start fires when flammables are transferred from one container to another. Use grounding and bonding wires to prevent static.

Before you begin working with flammables, make sure you know the location of two important safety tools: the spill control station, and the correct fire extinguisher.

Store Flammables By Themselves

Flammables should be stored by themselves, in a temperature-controlled area. It should be well-ventilated. Keep flammables far from heat or electric sources.

Store flammables in approved safety containers. The containers should have vapor-tight caps and

flame arrestors. Check to see that all containers are labeled and in good working order. Fix any leaks or damaged parts, or dispose of them.

Dispose Of Flammables Safely

Your company and the MSDSs will let you know how to dispose of flammables safely. Use only approved containers. Never pour flammables into the drain, sewer, garbage can, or ground. If your clothing or other materials are contaminated, follow your company's policy for disposal or decontamination.

Working Together Is The Only Way

It's important for you and your employer to work together. That's the only way to prevent flammable hazards. Your employer will provide training and equipment. It's your job to use what you learn and your common sense to protect yourself and your co-workers.