

HazMat Storage - Keeping Chemicals Safe

Follow these steps for safe storage of hazardous materials:

- Read and obey instructions on signs in chemical storage areas.
- Never drop or roll a chemical container.
- When moving containers, use appropriate materials handling equipment and make sure that the containers are well secured to the equipment so that they cannot fall.
- When using a forklift to move containers of hazardous materials, be careful not to puncture containers with the forks.
- Store chemicals separately by class and according to the company's storage plan.
- Store containers in or on safe, stable structures, such as racks or sturdy shelves able to hold their weight.
- Always store containers so that their labels are clearly visible.
- Report any missing labels immediately.
- Report any unusual odors in storage areas immediately.
- Never smoke in or near a storage area.
- Do not use sparking tools or anything that could ignite a hazardous substance or anything that is combustible in the storage area.
- Keep aisles clear and unobstructed to allow free movement of personnel and materials handling equipment through-out storage areas.
- Allow adequate clearance (3 feet) between stacked containers and ceiling sprinklers.
- Make sure that ventilation and lighting in storage areas are working properly at all times. Report any ventilation or lighting problems immediately.
- Keep chemical containers away from heat and other ignition sources.
- Inspect stored chemical containers regularly to make sure they are not damaged or leaking.
- Clean up all spills or leaks immediately if you are trained and authorized to do so; if not, notify specially trained cleanup personnel immediately.
- Know where fire extinguishers, eyewash stations, emergency showers, spill cleanup materials, and first-aid stations are located.
- Minimize trash in chemical storage areas and dispose of it properly.
- Get medical attention immediately if you or a co-worker is exposed to hazardous chemicals.