

Flammable Liquid Safety

"Flammable liquid" refers to any liquid having a flash point below 100°F. This can include, but is not necessarily limited to, gasoline, solvents, alcohol, and cleansers. While care needs to be taken with the liquids themselves, the real danger for fire or explosion comes from the ignition of vapors. To reduce the likelihood of injury or damage, follow these guidelines when handling and storing flammable liquids:

- Store flammable liquids only in approved containers (glass, plastic, or metal, depending on the quantity and type of liquid).
- Store all flammable liquids in a fireproof cabinet. Do not overfill the cabinet.
- Never store or use flammable liquids around an ignition source, and never smoke within 50 feet of flammable liquids.
- Leave approximately 20% of container capacity unfilled to allow liquid to expand in warmer temperatures.
- Separate incompatible types of liquids, such as flammable liquids and oxidizers.
- Label all containers and storage cabinets with proper, accurate signage, such as Pictograms or DOT.
- Place flammable liquids in a truck bed or trunk of a vehicle when transporting to protect vehicle occupants from the potential release of vapors.
- Make sure the area is well ventilated when opening flammable liquid containers.
- Keep tools away from flammable liquids that could cause a spark if dropped on the ground.

*CA Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 8, Sections 1930, 5531-5540
CA Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, "CA Fire Code", section 7902
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30 Chapter 4*

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