



# Toolbox Talks

## Flammable Liquids



Here are the basics when it comes to flammable liquid safety:

1. Always consult the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
2. It's the vapor, not the liquid, that ignites.
3. Only use approved containers and equipment.
4. Keep containers closed or covered.
5. Ensure potential ignition sources do not come close to flammable liquids.
6. Maintain adequate ventilation and avoid confined areas where vapors can accumulate.
7. While transferring, properly bond and ground containers.
8. Store flammable liquids separately by type and follow storage rules.

***OSHA Standard 1926.152(i)(6) In locations where flammable vapors may be present, precautions shall be taken to prevent ignition by eliminating or controlling sources of ignition.***

Handling flammable and combustible liquids requires care and caution.

- Do not begin work with a flammable liquid (or move flammable liquids into storage) unless you have been adequately trained in the proper handling and emergency procedures.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) will provide the basic information about each chemical.
- Keep flammable liquid containers closed when not in use.
- Never handle flammable liquids near open flames, ignition sources, or smoking areas.
- Ensure there is good ventilation where flammable liquids are handled.
- Always use grounding and bonding when transferring liquids to prevent static electricity.
- After use, place oily rags and other combustible waste in a covered, fire-resistant container that is labeled. Never leave oily rags in a pile.
- Clean up spills of flammable liquids quickly. Know the location of spill kits and how to use them.

Proper storage of flammable liquids is essential to prevent the release of vapors that can ignite and to avoid dangerous reactions with incompatible chemicals.

- Flammable liquid storage areas should be dry and cool with no sources of ignition nearby.
- Only use approved containers for storing flammable liquids. All stored containers should be in good condition, labeled, closed, and properly sealed. Regularly check for leaks.
- The vapors from flammable liquids can be heavier than air and may settle low so adequate ventilation to prevent vapor accumulation is important in storage areas.
- Storage cabinets should be clearly labeled as "Flammable - Keep Fire Away". Shelves should be sturdy and without gaps to prevent leakage spill to lower levels.
- Doors on metal storage cabinets should have a 3-point lock and be raised at least 2 inches above the bottom of the cabinet.

