



Hazardous Household Products Safety

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STORING HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS SAFELY:

- Make certain all products are clearly labeled before storing them. If possible, keep products in original containers with label intact and follow manufacturer's storage instructions accordingly.
- If the product container is deteriorating, place the entire container in a plastic bucket or glass jar with a tight-fitting lid. Surround it with a non-flammable absorbent, such as kitty litter, vermiculite, or floor dry, to absorb spills.
- Never mix different household chemicals. Doing so could be dangerous. For example, mixing chlorine bleach with ammonia or vinegar can create toxic fumes.
- Keep products out of the reach of children and animals. Store all hazardous products away from food items in locked cabinets or in cabinets with childproof latches. Keep your poison control number posted by the phone in case of an emergency
- Separate flammables, corrosives, and poisons and store them on separate shelves. The table below provides recommendations developed by EPA for storage of various classes of chemicals:

Class of Chemical	Recommended Storage Method	Examples	Incompatibilities
Compressed gases – Flammable	Store in a cool, dry area, away from oxidizing gases. Securely strap or chain cylinders to a wall or bench.	Methane, Hydrogen, Acetylene, Propane	Oxidizing and toxic compressed gases, oxidizing solids
Compressed gases – Oxidizing	Store in a cool, dry area, away from flammable gases and liquids. Securely strap or chain cylinders to a wall or bench.	Oxygen, Chlorine, Bromine	Flammable gases
Compressed gases – Poisonous	Store in a cool, dry area, away from flammable gases and liquids. Securely strap or chain cylinders to a wall or bench.	Carbon monoxide, Hydrogen sulfide, Nitrogen dioxide	Flammable and/or oxidizing gases
Corrosives – Acids	Store separately in acid storage cabinet. Segregate oxidizing acids (i.e., Chromic, nitric, sulfuric, and perchloric acids) from organic acids.	Acetic acid, Phenol, Sulfuric acid, Chromerge, Nitric acid, Perchloric acid, Chromic acid, Hydrochloric acid	Flammable liquids, flammable solids, bases, oxidizers
Corrosives – Bases	Store in separate corrosive storage cabinet. Store solutions of inorganic hydroxides in labeled polyethylene containers.	Ammonium hydroxide, Sodium hydroxide, Calcium hydroxide	Flammable liquids, oxidizers, poisons, acids
Flammable Liquids	Store in flammable storage cabinet and away from sources of ignition. Store highly volatile flammable liquids in an explosion-proof refrigerator.	Acetone, Benzene, Diethyl ether, Methanol, Ethanol, Toluene, Glacial acetic acid	Acids, bases, oxidizers, poisons

- Make sure lids and caps are tightly sealed and childproof. Be sure to close lids tightly so that products will not dry out, evaporate, or leak. Position containers to minimize pressure from contents against seals, lids or caps to prevent potential leakage.
- Keep products away from sources of heat, spark, flame or ignition such as pilot lights, switches and motors, oil stoves, furnaces, kerosene or electric heaters, and wood stoves. This is especially important with flammable products and aerosol cans.
- Store products containing volatile chemicals, or those that warn of vapors or fumes, in a well-ventilated area.
- Store products in a cool, dry area to prevent corrosion. If a product container is beginning to corrode, place the entire container in a plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid. Pack non-flammable absorbent, such as clay-based kitty litter, around the container. Clearly label the bucket with its contents and appropriate warnings.
- Never store rags contaminated with flammable solvents (such as wood stain, paint stripper and paint remover) because they can spontaneously start on fire. Follow the directions on the product label regarding the disposal of solvent-covered rags. If there are no directions, place the rags in an airtight, metal container and store the container outside your house away from other structures until it can be picked up with the trash or taken to the landfill for proper disposal. For additional information and directions, contact a member of your local fire department or the Oregon State Fire Marshall's Office: <http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Pages/index.aspx>.
- Only store gasoline in safety-approved containers in a well-ventilated area away from all sources of heat, flame, or spark.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher available which is formulated to extinguish a broad range of fires and check it monthly.