



## Flammable Liquid Containers

Flammable liquids evaporate quickly and are continually giving off unseen vapors. An open flame or a single spark can easily ignite these vapors. Sparks capable of igniting flammable vapors are frequently produced by mechanical means, electrostatic accumulations, and energized electrical circuits or equipment. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to keep these sparks from happening. Therefore, flammable liquids and vapors must be safely confined while being transported between storage areas and points of immediate use.

### Container Safety

In order to safely confine flammable liquids and reduce the escape of hazardous vapors, safety containers should always be used. Safety containers (see Figure 1) have outlets equipped with tight-fitting, leak proof caps, and valves that close by spring action, unless held open. This prevents spillage if the container is tipped over and minimizes the escape of vapors. The cap and valve also provide emergency venting when containers are exposed to high temperatures and reduces the likelihood of container explosion. The use of this type of safety container may also reduce solvent loss due to evaporation.

Flash arresting screens at outlets and fill connections prevent external fire from igniting vapors in the container while the liquid is being poured. The flash arrestor screens are omitted on containers used for thick, slow flowing liquids so as not to restrict liquid flow.

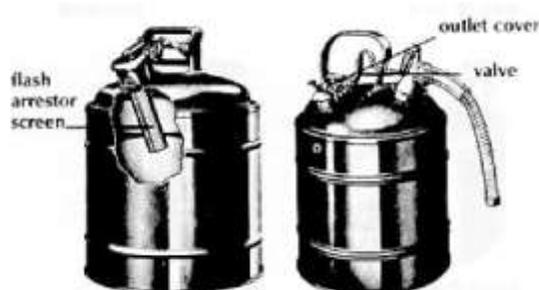


Figure 1: Typical safety containers

The polyethylene material is highly resistant to corrosive chemicals and has a higher impact resistance than metal. Several sizes and styles are available from various safety equipment manufacturers.

Safety containers listed or approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory should be selected for use. When selecting a container for a specific purpose, check such factors as types of solvent or fuel to be used, quantity needed, size of the fill opening in receiving vessel and speed of the dispensing desired.

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