



## Flammable and Combustible Liquid Storage Cabinets

Flammable liquids can be serious fire hazards. A properly constructed storage cabinet will protect these hazardous materials and reduce the likelihood that the flammable liquids would aggravate any fire that may occur.

A storage cabinet for flammable liquids will provide the following:

- A designated place for storage of the containers when not in actual use, such as at the end of the workday.
- A designated site where supervisors can maintain close control over containers and their contents minimizing container and product theft and misuse.
- An enclosure which protects the contents therein from excessive temperatures resulting from a fire in the surrounding environment.
- A substantial barrier to restrain a container that may burst because of exposure to elevated temperatures from a fire in the adjoining environment.
- A storage cabinet will also prevent the subsequent leakage of container contents over a wide area of the building which could rapidly escalate a fire which has already started.

UL listed cabinets will meet these objectives as long as the cabinet is maintained in a manner such that doors fit tightly, latch effectively, are kept closed, and are capable of being locked. A two-inch spill containment space should exist at the bottom of the cabinet and all sides should limit temperature penetration and withstand the force of rupture of containers inside.

When cabinets are vented to the outside, venting duct work should consist of the approved schedule of metal pipe. PVC or other plastic pipe should never be used for ventilating storage cabinets. When venting is not provided, bung covers should be closed tightly over the ventilation openings.

The point at which a flammable liquids storage cabinet is needed depends on the type of occupancy of the building, and the amount of flammable liquids on hand. Generally, the amount of flammable liquids kept in a residential, assembly, office, educational, or retail building should be extremely limited. Where there are more than 25 gallons of liquids stored having a flash point of 140 degrees F or less, a standard flammable liquids storage cabinet should be provided.

For commercial, industrial, and manufacturing facilities, a suitable flammable liquid storage cabinet should be provided whenever the quantity of liquids having a flash point below 140

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degrees F exceeds 120 gallons. In many cases, it may be desirable to have a special cabinet for these materials whenever lesser amounts are present.

In general, no more than three flammable liquids cabinets should be used in any one fire area within a non-sprinklered building. In adequately sprinklered buildings no more than 6 approved cabinets should be used unless the room enclosure is specifically designed for the storage of flammable liquids.

Figure 1 shows a typical flammable and combustible liquid storage cabinet for portable containers (5 gallons or less). Drum storage cabinets (not shown) are also available.

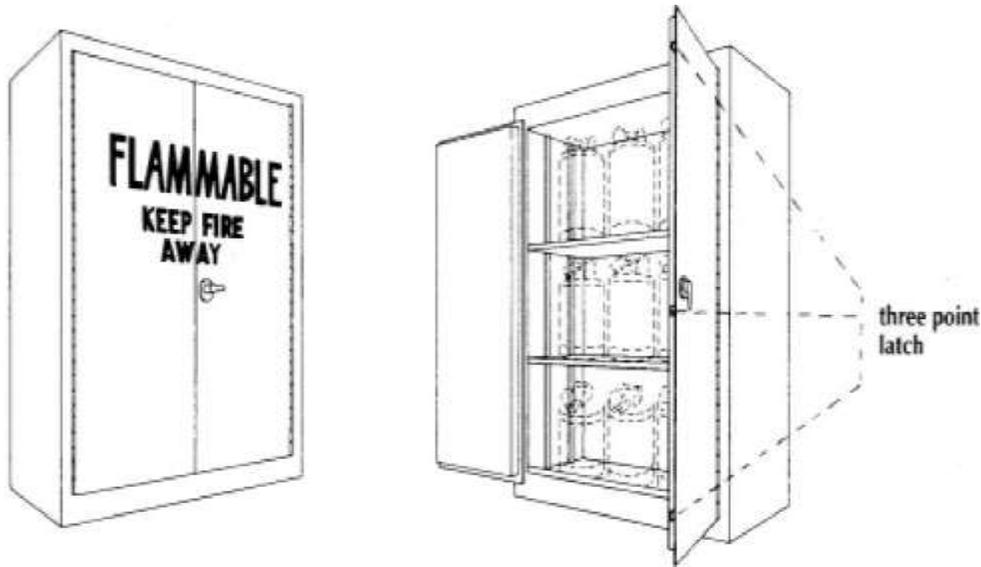


Figure 1: Typical Flammable and Combustible Liquid Storage Cabinet (two views)

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