

# Flammable Materials Storage

Fire can disrupt operations and leave a lasting negative impact on your bottom line, reputation, and workforce. Flammable materials can cause or accelerate a fire. These consequences are avoidable if steps are taken to identify these materials and store them properly.

First, let's look at fire basics. There are three necessary components of fire: an ignition source, fuel, and oxygen. Remove any of one these to extinguish or prevent a fire.

**If you remove flammable materials or the fuel source, you can eliminate the fire.**

Ignition Source



Oxygen

Fuel

## We recommend taking these steps to isolate or control flammable materials in your work area:

- Inspect your work area and remove any flammable materials such as wood, paper, or plastic, particularly when performing spark-producing tasks.
- Identify flammable liquids in your workplace, such as solvents, cleaners, or adhesives. Be sure to store flammable liquids in their original container or an Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) listed safety can. Gasoline should always be stored in these types of safety cans with a spring-loaded dispensing cap to trap escaping vapors.
- Store flammable liquids in flammable storage cabinets. Make sure that the cabinets have adequate ventilation, preferably leading outside of the building.
- Flammable liquids emit vapors that are easily ignited. A spark from a faulty electrical switch or an open flame could lead to a deadly fire. Make sure that all electrical equipment is in good repair. Replace any damaged electrical components as soon as possible.
- Avoid excessive inhalation of chemicals to avoid irritation or more severe health issues depending on the chemical and time of exposure.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: [fwcruminsurance.com](http://fwcruminsurance.com)