

TOOLBOX TALK

FLAMMABLE CHEMICALS SAFETY

Based on OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106

WHY THIS MATTERS

Flammable liquids are present on nearly every jobsite, fuels, solvents, paints, thinners, and cleaning agents. These products can ignite easily, spread rapidly, and turn a small mistake into a serious fire or explosion. Understanding how to store, handle, and use them correctly protects everyone on site.

What Is a Flammable Liquid?

- A flammable liquid is any liquid with a flash point at or below 199.4°F (93°C). The flash point is the lowest temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to ignite in air.
- Remember: It's the vapor that burns, not the liquid.
- OSHA classifies flammable liquids into Categories 1–4 depending on flash point and boiling point. Lower flash point = higher hazard

Major Hazards

- **Fire:** Vapors ignite quickly and spread fast.
- **Explosion:** Vapor-air mixtures can explode inside rooms or containers.
- **Invisible danger:** Vapors may travel long distances to ignition sources.

Fire Protection Requirements

- Fire extinguishers must be:
 - At least 12-B rating
 - Located outside storage rooms—between 10–25 ft away from the flammable liquid area.
- Keep water-reactive materials out of flammable storage areas.
- Ensure no smoking and no open flames in or near storage areas.

Safe Handling at Point of Use

- Keep containers closed when not in use.
- Dispense only with:
 - Safety cans,
 - Closed piping,
 - Approved self-closing valves, or Approved pumps.
- NEVER use air pressure to transfer flammable liquids, it may cause over-pressurization and create an explosive mixture. Provide adequate ventilation.
- Keep all ignition sources (sparks, smoking, open flames) far away.

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Date: _____ Presenter: _____

This form documents that the training specified above was provided to the listed participants. By signing, each participant acknowledges having received this training.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED

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