

Safe Storage & Handling of Flammable Liquid Drums

Container storage in buildings

Flammable Liquid storage buildings and rooms should be convenient for receiving shipments as well as to the point of operation. The prime consideration should be that of potential danger to your employees and property. The storage location should be above ground level, but not above or near valuable storage or key processes.

Life safety, exposure to other buildings, construction design and the degree of automatic fire protection provided, are factors to be considered when evaluating flammable liquid container storage in buildings.

Limitations on closed container storage in buildings are governed by National and Local Building Code Standards.

Check with local authorities before making any changes.

(Great American's Loss Prevention Data Guide entitled "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Storage Room" F.13346 provides details on construction and fire protection).

Outdoor storage

Outdoor drum storage should be located in such a manner as to reduce the spread of fire to the main building, materials in storage or to other nearby properties. The designated area used for drum storage should be kept free of other combustibles, (including weeds and high grass), as well as ignition sources.

"No Smoking Rules" should be strictly enforced in this area.

Self closing safety faucet

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed faucets, (for installation in drums), feature internal flame arresters and spring action self-closing devices. They are especially constructed for the handling of flammable liquids and will greatly minimize leaks and drips.

Drum venting

Drums of flammable liquids require venting to relieve pressure buildup due to heat, as well as to prevent creation of a vacuum when liquid is being drained off.

When drums are equipped with self-closing safety faucets, both pressure and vacuum relief must be provided by an approved vent installed in the drum bung opening.

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Bonding & Grounding

To prevent sparking from the buildup of static electricity generated by the flow of flammable liquids, all drums and containers must be equipped with “UL” listed bonding and grounding connections.

Drip Cans

A safety drip can should be positioned below each drum faucet to catch spills or any possible drip from a worn or damaged faucet. These lidless cans have a perforated fire screen over the opening.

Drum Pumps

The rotary drum pump, designed especially for flammable liquids, is the preferred method of transferring flammable liquids safely. Drip cans and safety vents are not required when rotary drum pumps are used.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.
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