

# Storage Cabinets For Flammable And Combustible Liquids

## Flammable Liquid Fires:

Flammable liquid fires start small—but burn with great intensity and are difficult to extinguish. Fires of this type can be avoided by storing flammable liquids, which are not actually in use, in UL listed storage cabinets.

## Advantages:

Storage cabinets for flammable liquid containers serve a number of important functions:

- Protect flammable liquids against flash fires.
- Prevent excessive internal temperature in the presence of fire.
- Contains spilled flammable liquids to prevent the spread of fire.
- Permits the storage of flammable liquids near points of operation.

## Requirements for safety cabinets:

- The cabinet should be constructed of 18 gauge steel with double-wall design providing 1 1/2" air space between inner and outer walls.
- All joints and seams should be riveted or welded.
- A 2" leak-tight sill or well should be provided at the bottom of the cabinet to contain spilled or leaking flammable liquids.
- Doors should be of construction equivalent to the walls of the cabinet with a three (3) point latch and kept closed when not in use.

## Ventilation:

Adequate ventilation reduces flammable vapor concentrations and eliminates the possibility of an accident. Outside vents are not required on cabinets, but this additional protection should be considered if the installation is practical. If not vented to the outdoors, vent openings should be sealed with a properly fitted metal bung.

## Capacity of storage:

Storage cabinets should not contain more than 60 gallons of \*flammable liquids or 120 gallons of\* combustible liquids.

Not more than three (3) cabinets may be located in a single fire area. However, industrial occupancies may have additional cabinets in the same fire area, if the additional cabinet, or group of not more than three (3) cabinets, is separated from the other cabinets by at least 100 feet.

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**Label cabinets:**

All cabinets should be labeled in conspicuous lettering.

“FLAMMABLE—KEEP FIRE AWAY”

**General definition**

## 1. Flammable Liquids

- Flash Point Below 100°F. (37.8°C) and shall be known as a Class I Liquid.
- Class IA—Flash Point Below 73°F. (22.8°C) with Boiling Point Below 100 F. (37.8°C).
- Class IB—Flash Point Below 73°F. (22.8°C) with Boiling Point At or Above 100°F. (37.8°C).
- Class IC—Flash Point At or Above 73°F. and Below 100°F.

## 2. Combustible Liquids

- Flash Point At or Above 100°F. (37.8°C).
- Subdivided as Follows:
- Class II—Flash Point At or Above 100°F. (37.8°C) and Below 140°F. (60°C).
- Class IIIA—Flash Point At or Above 140°F. (60°C) and Below 200°F. (93.4°C).
- Class IIIB—Flash Points At or Above 200°F. (93.4°C).

For additional information, contact your local Great American Loss Prevention Department.

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