

SafetyTalk

Topic: Chemical Storage

Chemicals should be stored according to a scientific storage system such as the Flinn Scientific Storage system. This storage system separates chemicals according to their hazard class. With this system, acidic and flammable liquids are stored in the appropriate spaces. They are separated further by inorganic and organic classifications to prevent unwanted chemical reactions while stored. The American Chemical Society provides information on suggested restricted chemicals.

General Safety Tips

- Chemicals should be stored in a secured room or locked cabinets.
- Flammable chemicals should be stored in UL-listed approved flammable cabinets.
- Chemicals should be stored at appropriate temperatures, away from electrical units or equipment that generates heat.
- Containers should not be stored on top of one another.
- Heavier items in storage rooms should be stored on the middle shelves.
- All chemical containers should have a lid/top that can be secured.
- Equipment for spill cleanup should be readily available, as well as the guidelines for spills and disposal.
- Chemicals beyond their shelf life and/or no longer in use should be removed from the premises.
 - A contracted source may be needed for chemical removal.
- Chemicals that create significant fumes should be used in a fume hood but not stored long term.
- All chemicals, including those used in classroom/laboratory settings, should be stored according to a scientific storage system.
- Chemical storage rooms should be ventilated based on the best practices for ventilation indicated on the Flinn Scientific website.

Topics to Discuss

- Storage system used at the organization
- Chemical disposal process
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standards (HCS)
- Proper ventilation guidelines
- Actions to follow if/when a chemical accident occurs

Resources

For more information about this topic, visit:

- UH Resource Library – Chemicals : [UnitedHeartland.com/resource-library](https://www.unitedheartland.com/resource-library)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration – Chemical Hazards: [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov)
- American Chemical Society: [ACS.org](https://www.acs.org)
- Flinn Scientific: [FlinnSci.com](https://www.flinnsci.com)

SafetyTalk

Topic: Chemical Storage

Date:

Location:

Meeting Organizer:

| Organization Name |
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| Items Discussed: |
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| Problem Areas or Concerns: |
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| Attendees (Names/Signatures): | |
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| Comments: |
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