



A Minute for Health & Safety

Issue #5 – May 2013

Hazardous Chemical Storage

Do not store incompatible chemicals together. A fumehood is not a suitable storage location. Most newer bottles of chemicals have hazard symbols right on the bottle. All containers must be clearly labeled with the product inside.



Toxic Chemicals



- ✓ Highly toxic chemicals should be stored in tightly closed containers.
- ✓ Toxic liquids should be stored within a well-ventilated location.
- ✓ Substitute toxic chemicals with less hazardous material.
- ✓ The amount of toxic chemicals in storage should be as small as possible.
- ✗ Do not store toxic chemicals that are no longer required for current research.



Flammable Liquids

- ✓ More than 10L in a room needs to be stored in a flammable storage cabinet.
- ✓ Flammable storage cabinets do not need to be vented, unless chemicals are both flammable and highly toxic.
- ✗ Do not put flammable storage cabinets near exits.
- ✓ Flammable liquids must only be stored in a fridge designed to contain flammables (i.e. no light or other ignition sources).
- ✗ Do not store oxidizers with flammables.



Corrosive Chemicals

- ✓ Corrosive chemicals should be stored in tightly closed containers.
- ✓ Corrosive liquids should be stored within a well-ventilated location.
- ✗ Do not store organic acids with inorganic acids.



Reactive Chemicals

- ✓ Reactive chemicals should have written procedures on usage *and* storage.
- ✓ Examine storage containers frequently. For example:
 - Picric acid needs to be rotated every 6 months.
 - Butyl Lithium must be in solvent and not dried out.
- ✓ Purchase only what you need and dispose of reactive chemicals whenever they are no longer required for current research.
- ✓ Reactive chemicals must be sufficiently segregated in storage.
- ✗ Do not use chemicals that have expired.