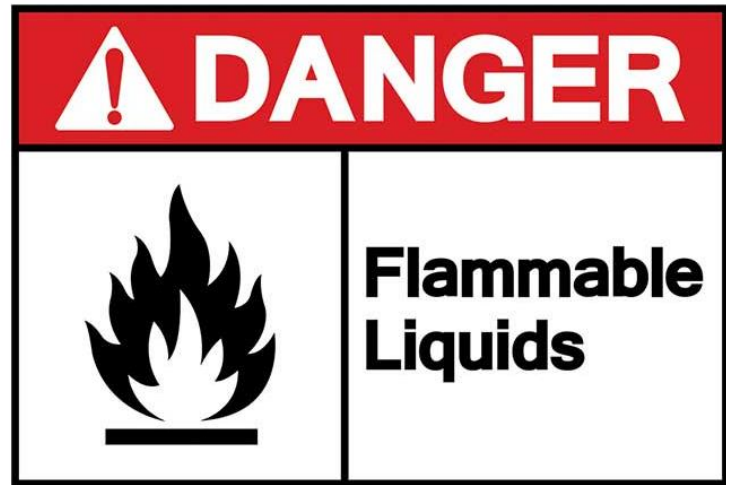


- Eliminate ignition sources (sparks, smoking, flames, hot surfaces) when working with flammable and combustible liquids.
- Use the smallest amount of flammable liquid necessary in the work area.
- Keep storage areas cool and dry.
- Store flammable and combustible liquids away from incompatible materials (e.g., oxidizers).



A combustible substance is one that catches fire and burns easily; a flammable substance is one that continues to burn even after the ignition source is removed. Determine the flammability of a combustible liquid by:

- Flash point- the lowest temperature at which vapors, or gases will ignite. The flash point can be found on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the specific material. SDS sheets are stored at the Right to Know Center located on the online Solution Center at www.im-safety.com
- Fire point- the temperature at which a combustible liquid gives off vapors
- Minimum concentration of extinguishing agents needed to extinguish the fire
- Combustion rate
- Temperature increases during combustion

Flammable liquids burn with intensity. Few materials can generate as many British thermal units (BTUs) per pound as flammable liquids. This accounts for the rapid heat buildup and how fast the fire spreads.

It is extremely important for employees to realize that the liquid itself does not burn, but its vapors, which are invisible and generally heavier than air. The vapors settle to the floor and are moved by air flow. Always consult the safety data sheet (SDS) provided by the manufacturer to determine the flammability of a particular liquid.

It is important when storing or working with flammable liquids that you are not exposed to ignition sources such as:

- Open flames
- Electrical switches
- Open motors
- Static electricity
- Friction and mechanical sparks
- Smoking
- Heat guns
- Cutting and welding
- Radiant heat

Each day as you go out to your work area, take a moment and look around. What flammable liquids are you using or storing? Are there any ignition sources around? Are they stored properly? Take the time necessary to properly prepare your work area and you will prevent a fire from occurring.