

Stored materials must not create a hazard for workers. Consider factors such as the materials' height and weight, how accessible the stored materials are, and the condition of the containers where the materials are being stored.

Storage areas should be kept neat, clean and orderly to eliminate hazards and conserve space. Material and supplies should never block access to emergency exits, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, fire hoses, or electrical panel boxes.



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To follow fire safety precautions, workers must understand that flammable and combustible materials must be stored according to their fire characteristics.

- Combustibles must be stored in an area where smoking and using an open flame or a spark-producing device is prohibited.
- Dissimilar materials that are dangerous when they come into contact must be stored apart from each other.

Unique safety precautions are required for the storage of hazardous materials.

- All chemicals and hazardous materials must be stored safely and securely, and away from forklift traffic areas.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) must be available for all chemicals that workers may be exposed to on the job and employees must follow the instructions on the SDS when handling chemical products.

Compressed gas cylinders should be stored on a smooth floor in an upright position with the valve covers in place.

- All cylinders should be chained or fastened against a wall or stable surface to prevent displacement.
- Different kinds of gases, especially those that are incompatible, should be stored separately.

- **Drums, barrels, and kegs** should be stored symmetrically with planks, sheets of plywood dunnage, or pallets between each tier of drums, barrels, and kegs to make a firm, flat, stacking surface.
- **Lumber** should be stored in such a way that is stable and self-supporting with all nails removed. Store lumber no more than 16 feet high if it is handled manually, and no more than 20 feet if using a forklift.
- **Boxed materials** should be banded or secured with cross-ties or shrink-wrap. Interlocking boxes will create a more stable stack. For stability, boxes can be placed on a pallet which will also make them easier to move.
- **Bags and bundles** can be stored in interlocking rows to keep them secure.
- **Pipes and bars** should be stored in racks or stacked and blocked to prevent spreading or tilting.

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