

Flammable Liquids & Gases

- Gases are supplied in pressurised cylinders (bottles) and must be treated very carefully. If they are mistreated they may explode like a bomb (see tool box talk on compressed gases for more information on how to handle gas bottles).
- Flammable liquids burn when mixed with the oxygen part of the air and an ignition source. A good way of preventing incidents involving flammable liquids is to keep them in closed containers. Always replace the lid when you have finished with a flammable liquid.
- Containers of flammable liquids or gases must be clearly labelled and 'fit for use'. Use metal containers for flammable liquids not plastic.
- Store all flammable gases and liquids away from extremes of heat and cold and any sources of ignition. They must also be stored away from anything labelled 'oxidising' and anything that will burn easily.
- When using gases all appliances connected to the system must be turned off separately to ensure there is no leakage from the system.
- **AVOID ALL SOURCES OF IGNITION.** Some are obvious, like a lit match or a cigarette, however some sources are not so obvious. Things like electrical equipment, wall mounted heaters, sparks from cutting or grinding or equipment which has been recently used and is 'hot to touch' can all be a source of ignition.
- Most flammable gases are heavier than air and will settle at the lowest level possible. Escaped gases will follow trenches and drains.
- Flammable liquids will usually evaporate if left open to air. The vapours from flammable liquids can also be flammable so always use flammable liquids in a well ventilated area.



Did you know?

Fires will only burn if heat, fuel and oxygen are present.

By ensuring there are no sources of ignition (heat) and that the amount of oxygen is kept to a minimum we can help to prevent the fires and explosions.



Q. When will flammable liquids burn?

Q. What should flammable liquids be stored in?

Q. Name four possible sources of ignition?