

Fuel Storage and Labeling

Storage Requirements

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) allows up to 10 gallons of fuel to be stored in one fire area (basically, one room).

Less than 10 gallons of fuel stored in a fire area can be stored in the "Rubbermaid"-style fuel cans. However, plastic containers are not preferred - the metal safety cans are always better.

If you must store 10-25 gallons of fuel, you must keep this fuel either 1) in a flammable storage cabinet or 2) in safety cans that have a flame arrestor and a spring-mounted relief vent mechanism.

No more than 25 gallons of fuel should be stored in one fire area.

Labeling

Many of the fuel containers sold today include pre-printed or embossed "right-to-know" labeling. Your fuel container must have a right-to-know label. If it didn't come on the container or it has worn off, please contact the CALS Occupational and Environmental Health Program [255-0485] for additional labels (CALS employees) or information about ordering labels (non-CALS employees).

A note about oil

There is no building or fire code limit on the amount of oil you can store in a work area. However, be mindful that with oils the high-risk issue is a spill to the environment, particularly a water body. Oils should always be stored on/in secondary containment. This is particular important where there is a floor drain and/or where there are permeable floors (e.g., soil, gravel). Make every effort to keep oil inventories as low as practical. Label used oil with the words "used oil" and the capacity of the container.