

# FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AND GASES

## HOW TO STORE AND HANDLE

FIRE PREVENTION STARTS WITH PROPER STORAGE AND HANDLING.

Flammable substances are a part of everyday life, but they pose a significant risk if not handled and stored properly. Taking the right steps can help prevent tragedy. Always store flammable substances in cool, well-ventilated places. Use only airtight containers designed for storing flammables. Store them away from living areas and out of children's reach. Keep them in their original containers with the labels intact.

## FLAMMABILITY LEVELS

Know the flammability level of each substance you bring into your home.

**Combustible:** Paint thinners, turpentine, nail polish remover, and brake fluid

**Flammable:** Furniture polish, cleaning fluids, glues and rubber cement, cooking oils, and grease

**Extremely Flammable:** Gasoline, wood stains, natural gas, and spot removers

## COMBUSTIBLE VS. FLAMMABLE

A combustible material is a material that can burn (i.e., sustain a flame) in the air under certain conditions. A material is flammable if it ignites easily at ambient temperatures. In other words, a combustible material ignites with some effort and a flammable material catches fire immediately on exposure to flame.





**FLAMMABLE OR  
COMBUSTIBLE  
LIQUIDS CAUSE  
MORE THAN  
51,000 HOME  
FIRES EACH  
YEAR.**

## **IGNITING FLAMMABLE VAPORS**

Flammable liquid vapors can be ignited by:

- Pilot lights, gas ranges, or wood-burning stoves
- Matches, candles, or lighters
- Furnaces, space heaters, or water heaters
- Lit cigarettes, cigars, or pipes
- Electrical sockets or damaged electrical cords
- Heat or sparks from appliances

## **HOW TO HANDLE FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES**

Do not use flammable substances or spray aerosol cans around heat or flames. When using inside, open windows and doors for fresh air. Always store heavy vapor flammables, such as gasoline and propane, outdoors. Use only as directed. If you smell gas, leave the area and call the fire department immediately.

**STORE ALL FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES  
ACCORDING TO THE LABEL AND  
HANDLE WITH EXTREME CARE.**