

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Highly flammable liquids (HFLs) and petroleum based adhesives are used extensively in construction activities.

Why: Misuse can result in fires, serious accidents and injury.

Outline: This talk will cover the hazards, storage and use of these products.



Identification

- The highly flammable nature of these products is identified by the appropriate symbol and wording on the container.

Hazards

- Highly flammable liquids and petroleum based adhesives will ignite at relatively low temperatures; they must be kept away from open flames and other sources of heat, including sparks.
- The vapours from these products are generally heavier than air and will accumulate at floor level if they cannot disperse, so store containers in a manner which does not permit leaking vapour to enter drains, excavations or hollows.
- The vapours from petroleum-based adhesives can make you drowsy, less attentive to safety and in some cases are toxic.
- Storage on site of such products should be in chests or cabinets made from non-flammable material.

Q: What highly flammable liquids or petroleum based adhesive do you use?

Precautions

- Only keep sufficient quantities at the place of work to carry out the immediate job in hand – otherwise, store surplus quantities in the proper store provided.

NOTES

[illegible]

TOOLBOX TALK #55

Flammable adhesives

NOTES

- Keep the lid tightly on containers when not in use.
- Do not use any equipment which generates heat or sparks (including electrical sparks) in the area in which these products are stored or used.
- Do not smoke in the area in which these products are stored or used.
- Wherever possible, use in well-ventilated areas – otherwise respiratory protective equipment (e.g. filter type respirator) may have to be worn.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Clear up spillages immediately and safely dispose of contaminated cleaning materials.
- If a spillage is within a building, open doors and windows if appropriate, or take other actions to assist vapour to disperse.
- If appropriate and practical, cover drains to prevent entry of the substance or its vapour after a spillage.

Q: Where should highly flammable liquids and petroleum-based adhesives be stored?

Q: Why shouldn't electrical tools be used where these products are in use?

Do you have any questions for me?

Sources: [About dangerous substances - HSE](#) [Storage of flammable liquids in process areas, workrooms, laboratories and similar working areas - HSE](#) [Process fire risks - HSE](#) [Segregation of hazardous materials](#)

For more information

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