



Storage Of Chemicals

The obligations of the operator related to the storage of chemicals depend on the amounts and hazards of the chemicals. Hazardous chemicals are chemicals that involve a risk of fire or explosion and chemicals that are harmful to health or the environment.

A distinction between large-scale and small-scale industrial handling and storage of chemicals is made. This Control approach contains key safety principles related to small-scale handling and storage in small companies and laboratories, for example.

Hazardous properties of chemicals

Determine the hazardous properties of the chemicals you use from the packaging labelling and safety data sheets of the chemicals. The supplier of a chemical is obligated to provide their client with a safety data sheet.

Safe handling of chemicals

The safe and proper storage of chemicals should be planned when plans for the premises are prepared. Pay attention to all of the hazardous properties of the chemicals, such as flammability, oxidization, toxicity, etc.

Written instructions on how to safely handle the chemicals must be prepared. No hazardous chemicals without hazard labels or safety data sheets must be used at the workplace.

Storage of chemicals

Store the chemicals in their original containers, if possible. If the chemical is moved to another container or mixtures or dilutions are made, the hazard labelling must be moved to the new containers as well.

It is important to store incompatible chemicals separate from each other. More information about the compatibility of chemicals can be found in the safety data sheets and the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency manual Vaarallisten kemikaalien varastointi (in Finnish).

Further information

A manual on the industrial storage and handling of chemicals is available on the [Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency website](#).

- Estimate the amounts of chemicals to be stored and pay attention to storage limits, i.e. the amount of chemicals that can be stored in the premises. Pay attention to chemical waste and the appropriate disposal of chemical waste.
- Plan the storage location of the chemicals. Keep the storage, production and social areas separate from each other.
- Plan and ensure that the required safety precautions are taken, such as alarm systems and ventilation.
- Prepare for accidents, determine the locations of passageways and emergency access routes, access restrictions and the quality, number and location of firefighting, rescue and first aid equipment. Prepare a rescue plan.
- Plan the maintenance and cleaning of the storage area and appoint a person in charge of the storage.
- Provide cleaners, maintenance workers and other similar persons with training related to hazardous chemicals in their work.
- Laboratory chemicals must be stored in ventilated premises specifically designed for them, such as fume hoods or cabinets equipped with local exhaust units.





CHECKLIST

- Are the information and amounts of the stored chemicals up to date?
- Are the list of chemicals and safety data sheets up to date?
- Are the chemical tanks and containers as well as chemical waste labelled appropriately?
- If a chemical has been moved from a bigger container to a smaller container, has it been ensured that all containers are labelled with the required information (chemical name, warning label, hazard and precautionary statements)?
- Have the employees been provided with training and instructions on how to use and handle the chemicals safely and how to act in the event of an accident?
- Is the workplace equipped with the required personal protective equipment and first aid equipment and does everybody know how to use them?
- Do the emergency services authority have up-to-date information about the chemical storage areas, their locations, the chemicals stored in them and the respective amounts?
- Is the first aid fire extinguishing equipment appropriate for the stored chemicals?
- Has a rescue plan been prepared and kept up to date?

