

Making Sense Out of Chemical Storage

Proper chemical storage is a critical part of laboratory safety. Here are some basic steps for safe, organized chemical storage.

Let's Get Organized

- Separate each hazard class of chemicals so that they will not react with each other. Container labels should have the chemical name and hazard easily visible.
 - Newer chemical labels should have the pictogram and the signal word if applicable.
 - All primary containers **MUST** have the pictogram and signal word.
 - If necessary, reprint a label using ChemWatch
(https://www.uab.edu/ehs/images/docs/chem/SDS_how_to_use_ChemWatch_2016-01-20.pdf)
- Post each storage shelf or cabinet with a sign that lists the primary hazard. Use the classifications below to sort chemicals for storage.



Toxic or Poison	Flammable
Reactive	Corrosive acids and bases
Oxidizer	Low Hazard

- Order and store highly toxic or cancer-causing chemicals in the smallest practical amount.
- Store flammable or combustible liquids in approved containers.
 - Put containers in flammable material storage cabinets, or in under-hood storage areas.
 - Store no more than 10 gallons of flammable liquids outside flammable material storage cabinets.
- Place water reactive chemicals in a cool, dry area away from sources of water.
 - Protect these materials from water that may be released from sprinklers during a fire.

