

Chemical Storage Color Code

Class of Chemical	Storage Color	Recommended Storage Method and Additional Concerns	Common Chemical Examples	Common Incompatibles (Consult Product SDS)
Corrosive Acids - Inorganic	White	Corrosives cabinet (marked ACID), or on protected shelving and in secondary containment, away from organic acids. *DO NOT store acids on metal shelving.	Hydrochloric acid (Muriatic acid), Sulfuric acid, Phosphoric acid, Nitric acid. *Nitric acid is a strong oxidizing acid and should be stored by itself in secondary containment.	Flammable liquids, Flammable solids, Bases, Oxidizers, Organic acids, Cyanides, Sulfides
Corrosive Acids - Organic	White	Corrosives cabinet (marked ACID), or on protected shelving and in secondary containment, away from inorganic acids. *DO NOT store acids on metal shelving.	Acetic acid, Formic acid, Trichloroacetic acid	Flammable liquids, Flammable solids, Bases, Oxidizers, Inorganic acids, Cyanides, Sulfides
Corrosive Bases - Inorganic	White Stripe	Corrosives cabinet, or on protected shelving, away from acids and organic bases.	Ammonium hydroxide, Potassium hydroxide, Sodium carbonate	Flammable liquids, Acids, Oxidizers, Organic bases
Corrosive Bases - Organic	White Stripe	Corrosives cabinet, or on protected shelving, away from acids and inorganic bases.	Hydroxylamine, Tetramethylethylamine diamine, Triethylamine	Flammable liquids, Acids, Oxidizers, Hypochlorites, Inorganic bases
Explosives	Red Stripe	Secure location away from other chemicals, and in areas away from shock or friction.	Trinitrotoluene, Picric acid, Diazoisobutylnitrile	Consult SDS
Flammable liquids	Red	Flammable storage cabinet	Ethanol, Methanol, Acetone, Xylene, Toluene, Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)	Oxidizers, Reactives, Acids, Bases
Flammable solids	Red Stripe	Cool, dry area away from oxidizers and corrosives, or a dedicated flammable cabinet	Carbon, Charcoal, Paraformaldehyde, Sodium Laurel (Dodecyl) Sulfate, Magnesium, Powdered metals	Acids, Bases, Oxidizers
General Stock Chemicals	Orange	Laboratory benches, shelving, or cabinets with like chemicals.	Sodium bicarbonate, Agar, Amino acids, Sugars, Potassium chloride	Consult SDS
Oxidizers	Yellow or Yellow Stripe	In secondary containment with non-combustibles or inorganic materials. Some may need to be separated from other oxidizers.	Perchlorates, Permanganates, Nitrates, Hypochlorites (Bleach), Hydrogen peroxide	Flammables, Combustibles, Organic materials
Peroxide-forming Chemicals	Red	Flammable storage cabinet. *Remember: Peroxide-forming chemicals MUST be dated upon delivery and opening and tested for peroxide formation prior to use.	Diethyl ether, Tetrahydrofuran (THF)	Oxidizers, Reactives, Acids, Bases. Consult SDS
Toxic	Blue	Cool, dry, ventilated area in a chemical-resistant secondary container. Some may require storage in a locked cabinet.	Chloroform, Cyanides, Heavy metal compounds (Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, etc.)	Flammable liquids, Acids, Bases, Reactives, Oxidizers
Water Reactive	Red Stripe	Cool, dry location, protected from fire sprinkler system and sources of water. Label area for water-reactive storage.	Sodium borohydride, Metallic Sodium, Lithium, Potassium	Aqueous solutions, Oxidizers, Water sources

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