



Important Considerations When Selecting a Safety Cabinet

Safety cabinets come in a wide selection of colors, sizes, shapes and door arrangements. Beyond choosing a cabinet that meets the requirements of NFPA, OSHA, and carries an FM approval, other factors must be considered.

Chemical Characteristics

It is important to identify and inventory all chemicals to be stored. A review of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) will determine characteristics and recommended storage practices. To avoid generating toxic explosions and to prevent fires, it is critical to segregate incompatible chemicals. Chemical labeling and training is covered under regulations and the Right-to-Know Act (or Hazard Communication Standard). For easy access to MSDS sheets, Document Storage Boxes are available which adhere directly on a safety cabinet for point-of-use availability.

One factor in choosing a cabinet is how the chemical relates to the construction material of the cabinet itself. For example, for non-flammable acids and corrosive liquids, the construction material should be polyethylene or wood laminate. However, for less aggressive corrosive liquids that

exhibit flammable characteristics, a chemically resistant steel cabinet with polyethylene lined shelves is recommended. Cabinets constructed of steel are suitable for flammable liquids, and choosing the correct color helps organize and segregate different types of liquids. While regulatory codes do not mandate the specific color, industry has customarily observed certain colors for defined liquids (see below).

Regulatory and Safety Considerations

As covered earlier, construction criteria must conform to specifications set forth by NFPA and OSHA. In some areas of the country where either the International Fire Code (IFC) or NFPA 1 the Uniform Fire Code is followed, it is further required that the doors of a flammable liquid cabinet shall be well fitted and *self-closing*.







Safety cabinets come in single or two door closure styles: manual or self-closing. Economical manual close doors permit doors to open a full 180 degrees and require the user to physically shut the doors. Self-close, self-indexing doors incorporate a mechanism that automatically shuts doors upon release. Fusible links hold the doors open during use, but if

inadvertently left open, will melt at 165°F (74°C) in the event of a fire to automatically close the doors.

Whereas self-closing doors are required in states that adopt a specific fire code, it is recommended that local jurisdictions always be contacted for specific requirements. Self-closing doors ensure closure by taking away the "human element" of potentially forgetting to shut the doors. It is often, therefore, considered the preferred door choice for a good overall safety program. Additionally, self-close mechanisms that are concealed within the top wall of the cabinet are an added benefit, maximizing available storage space.

Whether manual or self-closing, a self-latching door and handle is critical as it does not require the user to manually rotate a handle to ensure the mandatory three-point latch is properly engaged. A stainless steel bullet-type latching system offers positive closure and optimum longevity with increased heat resistance.

All Justrite cabinets have a 3-pt. stainless steel bullet self-latching system, meet OSHA and NFPA, and most are FM approved.

	Yellow for flammable liquids		Green for pesticides and insecticides
	Red for paints, inks, and other combustible liquids		Silver or neutral colors for laboratory settings
	Blue for corrosives		White or gray for waste materials or outdoor lockers

THE SELF-CLOSING STYLE OF DOORS IS REQUIRED IN CERTAIN STATES WHICH FOLLOW AN ADOPTED FIRE CODE SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC) OR NFPA 1, UNIFORM FIRE CODE.

Contact local jurisdictions for specific requirements.

Below are samples. List is not all inclusive.

100% adopted throughout the state: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, California, Montana, Utah, Hawaii, Nevada, Washington.

10% to 90% adopted throughout the state: Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, North Dakota, Texas, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming