

Chemical Storage

Storing chemicals correctly helps prolong shelf life and protect people, animals and the environment. Always read the label and safety data sheet (SDS), keep labels intact and firmly attached, and keep the SDS accessible. Follow all product storage requirements including any specific storage separation requirements.

General Storage Recommendations

- Store chemicals in their original containers in a cool, well-lit, well-ventilated area that is away from direct sunlight.
- Store farm chemicals outside the home in a cabinet or separate facility.
- Store household chemicals in a dedicated area, out of the reach of children.

Farm and Household Chemical Storage

- Storage facilities should be lockable and constructed with nonflammable materials when possible.
- Do not store chemicals in office or personal refrigerators; food and chemicals should never be stored together.
- Post the emergency response numbers for local fire and police, and the **National Poison Control Center emergency number 1-800-222-1222**.



Farm Chemical Storage

- Never store chemicals with seeds, fertilizers, protective clothing or animal feed.
- Ensure floors and shelves are constructed with a chemically-resistant material, coated, sealed, or used with a secondary containment to prevent the absorption of hazardous chemicals.
- Keep chemicals from freezing and from extremely high temperatures. Temperatures between 60° and 80° F are ideal to prevent deterioration of chemical properties.
- Do not allow smoking in or near the storage area or facility, and post NO SMOKING signs.

Additional resources are available at www.i-cash.org

Why Are Chemical Warning Signs Important?

Proper signage helps reduce the risk of incidents by identifying the hazards and allows emergency responders to select appropriate control, evacuation and clean up procedures.

Do You Know The Signs?

Look at the product itself to determine if it has a signal word. The product label may include the signal words **DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION**. Some products with low toxicity may not have a signal word.

DANGER

If not avoided,
will result in death or serious injury.

WARNING

If not avoided,
could result in death or serious injury.

CAUTION

If not avoided,
could result in minor or moderate injury.

Choose the least hazardous product that can do the job.

Additional Safety Considerations

- Always have the label or SDS, a basic first aid kit, and emergency medical information accessible.
- Post the phone number for the National Poison Control Center **1-800-222-1222**.
- Have a source of clean water near farm chemicals to decontaminate skin, eyes, and other exposures, as required by the label or SDS.
- Be aware of chemical look-a-likes that may appeal to children.
- Chemical ingestions require a specific emergency response, call the Poison Control Center for guidance.
- Maintain and regularly inspect storage area and personal protective equipment.
- Have an ABC fire extinguisher and fire/rescue phone numbers close to the storage area.

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The University of Iowa • Iowa State University
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa Department of Public Health • Non-profits for Farm Health

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