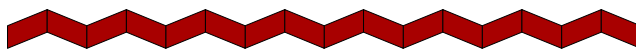




# Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Storage for Grounds Maintenance Equipment



## Office of Safety and Security Fact Sheet

### Background

The storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids is regulated by the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Agency. The requirements set forth by both groups are essentially identical.

Gasoline and gas/oil mixtures are **flammable liquids** and diesel fuel is a **combustible liquid**. Typical quantities for both gasoline and diesel require special handling and annual permits from the Fire Prevention Division.

Gasoline and diesel fuels are stored either in detached lawn equipment sheds and/or in rooms of the school building that have an access door that leads directly outside and does not have a door that leads into the building. Most often, these rooms are the old "can washing" rooms adjacent to the school's kitchen, and open out to the loading dock.

### Storage Requirements

- Gasoline must be stored in OSHA-approved metal safety cans that are equipped with self-closing spring loaded caps with anti-flashback devices. An approved can will have the "FM" (Factory Mutual) or "UL" (Underwriters Laboratories) mark. The capacity of the safety can not exceed 5 gallons.
- Gasoline/oil mixture fuels for two-stroke engines must be stored in an approved safety can (as described above).
- No more than 25 gallons of gasoline and gas/oil mixtures (flammable liquids) can be stored in safety cans outside of an approved storage cabinet.
- No more than 60 gallons of diesel fuel (combustible liquids) can be stored outside of an approved storage cabinet.
- Gasoline contained inside the fuel tank of a lawn mower/tractor, weed trimmer, and/or leaf blower does not count towards the overall allowable storage quantity.
- For other curriculum (science, art, etc.) flammable liquids, no more than 10 gallons of flammable liquids can be stored outside of an approved (OSHA) storage cabinet.



### Approved Safety Cans and Approved Flammable Cabinets

Gasoline and gasoline/oil mixture fuels must be stored in approved safety cans and cannot be stored in non-approved plastic containers. Plastic gasoline containers are for HOME USE ONLY. Approved Safety cans are available for purchase through the FCPS Custodial Supply Catalog:

- FCIN: 3411004004, SAFETY CAN, 2 GAL, FOR FLAMMABLES
- FCIN: 3411004001, SAFETY CAN, 5 GAL, FOR FLAMMABLES



Approved Flammable cabinets (like those found in science storage areas) can be used in attached and detached storage rooms to store no more than 60 gallons of gasoline and gas/oil mixture fuels in approved safety cans.

### Hazardous Material Signs (placards)

Hazardous Material Signs (NFPA 704 Placards) are required for all gasoline storage areas. These placards are available from the Office of Safety and Security (OSS) as a plastic sign mountable to a wooden/metal door or as a vinyl sticker that can be directly applied to a metal door. Please contact OSS at 571-423-2010 for placards.

### Fuel Dispensing Best Practices

- Avoid dispensing fuels into gas/diesel powered equipment or refueling fuel cans inside attached storage rooms or detached sheds. Dispensing fuels outside these rooms allows maximum ventilation for this process and should minimize any fuel odors from entering back into the school building.
- Store gasoline products in red storage cans and diesel products in yellow cans. Consider storing 2 cycle oil/gasoline mixture in the 2 1/2 gallon containers and straight fuel in 5 gallon containers.
- Avoid refueling gas/diesel powered equipment while engines are hot. Allow engines to cool down prior to refueling to avoid a possible auto-ignition fire hazard.

**If you need any other assistance, call the OSS Safety Section at 571-423-2010.**