

Lab Chemical Storage Guide

This guide does not apply to the storage of hazardous waste or gases under pressure

Instructions

- Before using this decision logic, read the General Storage Guidelines in the box below.
- From **Start**, move downward until you reach a GHS pictogram that is on the label (See Note below).
- Follow the decision logic to identify the **Storage Group** and recommended storage locations. If the logic returns you to another pictogram, continue to move downward until you reach a pictogram on the label.
- Read any additional recommendations associated with the storage group and location.
- **Always review Sections 7.2 Conditions for Safe Storage and 10, Stability and Reactivity, of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to determine any special storage requirements and to verify compatibility.**
- **Separate all chemical storage groups.** Storage in separate cabinets or locations always meets this requirement and is preferred where space allows. Separating storage groups using secondary containment bins also meets this requirement, unless specifically prohibited in this guide.

NOTE: If the product does not have a GHS label search Sigma Aldrich or go to ChemWatch and look at their Gold SDS for the same product and use Section 2: Hazard Identification of their SDS to complete the decision logic.

General Storage Guidelines

- Store chemicals only in cool, dry areas.
- Do not store chemicals in direct sunlight or near a heat source.
- Only store chemicals in well ventilated areas. Do not store gases or volatile hazardous chemicals in unventilated cold or warm rooms.
- Avoid storing chemicals on the floor. If unavoidable, then store in a secondary containment bin.
- Try to store liquids below eye level. Have appropriate step stool or ladder available if chemicals are stored at higher levels.
- Designated labels should be used for peroxide forming chemicals. Record received and opened date on the label of all time-sensitive chemicals.
- Do not remove original labels from containers. Replace labels if they are not legible. Appropriate GHS information should be provided.
- Return chemicals to designated storage location when not in use. Do not store chemicals in any fume hood used to conduct laboratory procedures.
- Carefully reseal opened containers before returning to storage. Replace broken, cracked or deteriorated caps. Use Teflon tape and paraffin as indicated to control fugitive emissions of volatile high hazard or stench chemicals.
- EH&S recommends that secondary containment bins, where employed, are labeled with the storage group name.
- Clearly separate chemical storage from hazardous waste storage.

