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Hazardous Materials: Common Storage Problems

By [Jeffery C. Camplin](#)
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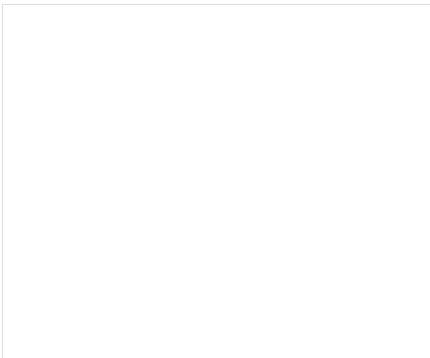
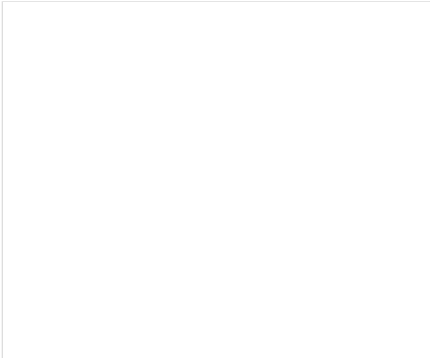
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Common storage problems include using inappropriate or leaking containers, storing incompatible chemicals together, and using inappropriate or

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unsecured containers. Managers should ensure containers have proper labels and that storage areas are free of leaks and spills.

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Next, managers must make sure storage areas are designed for the hazards present. They should segregate the chemicals from incompatible materials in storage, protect containers from physical damage, and provide fire-protection and spill response based specifically on the existing hazard.

Improper storage practices can increase the risks associated with certain chemicals, particularly those that are flammable, corrosive, or reactive. A good rule of thumb is to separate and store products in compatible categories using compatible equipment stored on compatible shelving.

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