Flammable Liquid Containers, Storage and Dispensing

Safety cans are approved containers of not more than 5 gallon capacity, having a spring closing lid and spout cover so designed that it will safely relieve internal pressure when subjected to fire exposure.

Flammable liquid safety containers are vessels specifically built to withstand moderate mechanical shock and provide fire safety features such as proper vapor control and venting, flame arrestor (perforated metal or wire screen), liquid-tight seams, recessed bottom, and automatic closing covers. Their principal purpose is to isolate their contents from a fire and to prevent or retard those contents form contributing to a fire. Other flammable liquid containers, which have a broad application in production and maintenance operations, incorporate many fire safety features in their design to minimize the incidence of fire.

Listed or approved safety containers should always be used in transporting flammable liquids between storage areas and points of immediate use.

When selecting a container for a specific purpose, make certain that unnecessary transfers or dispensing operations are avoided, since each presents some risk from spillage and flammable vapors. Check such factors as the minimum quantity of solvent needed, size of the fill opening in the receiving vessel and the speed of dispensing desired.

The following 12 basic safety containers are designed to fit the specific needs of most flammable liquid users.
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**Large Storage Container** - This container is intended for carrying and pouring liquids into tank or large vessels. It has a relatively large opening for quick emptying. When safely kept at the point of use, it can reduce visits to the main storage area for replenishing solvent supplies. Sizes available are: 2, 3 and 5 gallon.

**Large Dispensing Container** - The flexible metal hose is for dispensing liquids into large and medium vessels which have small receiving openings. This eliminates the need to use a funnel and also provides a means of contact, bonding the receiving vessel to the dispensing can to help prevent static sparks. Sizes available are: 2, 3, and 5 gallon.

**Small Dispensing Container** - This container may either be round (1 pt., 1 qt., or 1 gal.) or oval (1 gal.) and is particularly useful where small quantities of liquids are used. If liquids are to be dispensed into vessels with small receiving openings, then models equipped with a flexible metal hose should be used. The space-saving oval shape permits five 1 gallon cans to be stored in the same space as three round 1 gallon containers.

**Oval Dispensing Container** - This 5 gallon container is similar to the round large dispensing container. It has the same space saving feature as the small oval container. Frequently it is used as a spare gasoline can for vehicles. For this application, it should be mounted outside in a vehicle bracket and so located that it will be protected from minor accidents.

**Viscous Liquid Container, Large Dispensing** - This container is designed to dispense liquids such as rubber cement and heavy oils. The containers come in 5 and 10 gallon sizes and are usually filled in the storage area and then transported to a convenient location for ample point-of-use supply.

**Viscous Liquid Portable Dispensing** - Space saving oval containers in 1/2 and 1 gallon sizes are used for safe storing and dispensing of small amounts of viscous liquids. The knife-like blade over the opening quickly stops the flow of liquid when filling small receptacles such as glue pots.

**Large Dispensing Container with Tilt Rack** - This unit is a 5 or 10 gallon container suspended in a tilt frame and has a self-closing faucet. This table top unit has the advantage of accurately controlling liquid flow into small containers. A wall rack mode, holding one or two tilt containers, may be used as a dispensing station.

**Plunger Can** - This container is used for dispensing measured amounts of liquids in continuous flow, production line operations. A cloth or swab may also be moistened by depressing spring mounted dasher. The amount of wetting is controlled by the length of the stroke; excess liquid quickly drains back into the container. Sizes available are 1 pt., 1 qt., 2 qt., 1 gal. and 2 gal.

**Swab Pail** - When flammable solvents are used on clean up work where quick access and easy portability are required, the swab pail should be used in place of an ordinary pail. A hinged cover minimizes vapor loss. The size available is 11/2 gallons.

**Bench Can** - Conveniently used for saturating a large wiping cloth or swab in parts cleaning or for immersing small production parts in a cleaning solvent. When used as a small "bench parts washer", a removable parts basket should be used. Sizes available are 1 qt., 2 qt., 2 gal., 3 gal., and 1/2 pt. (touch up can). Parts washer sizes are 3 pts. and 2 gal.

**Liquid Disposal Container** - This container provides a safe, intermediate station for receiving and storing waste liquids. The extra large opening allows quick disposal without the need for a funnel. Sizes available are 2 and 5 gallon.
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Storage Containers

Storage containers should be very well constructed. Damaged or leaking containers should be removed to a safe location outside the building. Racks necessary for storage, mixing, and dispensing should be substantially built of metal.

**Drain Can** - For draining liquids from parts washers, dip tanks, and similar vessels. The large funnel-type opening allows quick, splash-free draining. This container does not provide control of vapor release (no cover) and should be emptied soon after draining operations are complete. It may also be used as a drip can under drum faucets. Sizes available are: 11/2 and 3 gal.

**Other Containers** - For specialized applications such as storing highly corrosive liquids, wetting applying brushes, transporting glass flammable containers and parts washing, other special flammable liquid containers are available. The following manufacturers may be contacted for assistance with flammable liquids handling problems:

- Eagle Manufacturing Company
  24th and Charles Streets
  Wellsburg, West Virginia 26070

- Justrite Manufacturing Company
  2061 North Southport Avenue
  Chicago, Illinois 60614

- Protectoseal Company
  225 Foster Avenue
  Bensenville, Illinois 60106

See NFPA 30 - Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code for additional information.