

## Installation guide for STOREMASTA Flammable Liquids Cabinet

Have you just bought a flammable liquids cabinet for your workplace? Or perhaps you've had a safety cabinet for years, but you aren't sure it's 100% compliant? Whatever your situation, this blog will walk you through the essentials steps when installing a flammable liquids cabinet. We want you to install your flammable cabinet correctly, so you can comply with WHS Regulations and Australian Safety Standards.

Installing your cabinet correctly is a key part of your compliance obligations

### 1. Choose A Compliant Location

The first step in installing a compliant cabinet is to choose the right location. To comply with AS 1940:2017 – The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids you'll need to make sure the cabinet is:

- At least 3 metres from ignition sources (power points, electrical equipment that could spark during discharge, electronics and gadgets that could create static electricity, hot work, industrial heat).
- Away from incompatible substances (compressed gases, flammable solids, oxidisers etc).
- Not blocking emergency exits.
- At least 10 metres from another aggregate quantity\*\*
- Within a 10 second reach of a safety shower, emergency shower and first aid kit.
- Fitted with (or near) a Register of Hazardous Chemicals.

\*\*AGGREGATE QUANTITIES: Ground floor — 850 litres per 250 square metres.  
Other floors — 250 litres per 250 square metres.

There are further requirements if your cabinet is over 250 litres. You must also consider these guidelines when installing or relocating your flammable cabinet.

## Flammable liquids cabinets over 250 litres

- Never installed against a common wall.
- Not installed in a public building, accommodation house, hospital/aged care/medical facility or school.
- Only installed on the ground floor (or any floor that has direct access to the street).

IMPORTANT: Our team always recommend conducting a risk assessment on your flammable liquids (and other hazardous chemicals) before purchasing and installing a cabinet. Download our free eBook [Essential Considerations When Storing Flammable Liquids Indoors](#) to learn more.

## 2. Level The Cabinet

Once you've decided on the location for your safety cabinet, you must ensure that the surface is level — and the cabinet's not resting at an angle.

There are three important reasons for this:

1. The cabinet needs to be stable — being on an angle can unbalance the structure making it vulnerable to being knocked over.
2. If the base of the cabinet isn't level and you fill it with heavy fuel drums this can stop the doors from closing properly. If the doors are prevented from closing automatically the cabinet is no longer compliant with AS1940:2017.



3. The shelving in the cabinet is angled to ensure that leaks and spills are immediately directed into the lower compound. If the cabinet is not level this will interfere with the compliance of the spill containment facilities.

## 3. Segregate and Fill Correctly

Now that your flammable cabinet is situated in the right location and resting on an even, level surface, it's time to think about how you're going to use the cabinet.

As the name suggests, flammable cabinets are designed to store Class 3 Flammable Liquids. We know that this sounds a little obvious, but make sure that nothing but flammable liquids are placed in the cabinet.

Storing incompatible substances together can cause fires, explosions and dangerous chemical reactions. To determine your segregation requires, you must identify all chemicals that you carry at your workplace as per the information on the Safety Data Sheet, determine their segregation requirements and then implement risk control measures.

For compliance and safety please make sure that you:

1. Remove cardboard cartons, excess packaging and other combustible materials before placing flammable liquids in the cabinet.
2. Don't load the cabinet past its approved capacity rating.
3. Ensure drums, tins and containers are standing upright on the shelves — and nothing is placed in the lower compound (which is designed to catch and contain leaking chemicals).
4. Close the lids and wipe down containers before placing in the cabinet.
5. Make sure containers are fully inside the cabinet and not preventing the doors from closing.
6. Ensure the area is well-lit and that all signs, stickers and markings can be easily seen when the doors to the cabinet are closed.

## 4. Implement Good Housekeeping

Housekeeping isn't just something you do when it's required at home. Your safety cabinets rely on regular housekeeping practices to maintain compliance.

Once your cabinet is correctly installed and stocked with Class 3 Flammable Liquids, you'll need to implement some new housekeeping procedures.

Your housekeeping practices should include:

- Prohibiting workers from carrying out hot work like welding and grinding near the cabinet.
- Restricting access to the area.
- Keeping the general vicinity free of combustible materials (eg, boxes, pallets, refuse, debris).
- Not allowing workers to bring personal electronics, incompatible chemicals, or vehicles near the cabinet.
- Never using the top of the cabinet as a decanting area.
- Never propping the cabinet open.
- Never move or relocate the cabinet with chemicals inside.
- Putting orders away immediately and not leaving them on the ground next to the cabinet for days (common practice).

## 5. Train Workers and Supervisors

As you have probably experienced in your own workplace, safety cabinets can quickly fall into disrepair if you don't train your staff, contractors and supervisors to use them properly.

Consider including the following in your flammable cabinet training program:

- Hazard awareness, locations of cabinets, restricted activities.
- How to load the cabinet correctly, including approved capacity, segregation, opening and closing, adjusting shelving.
- How to safely clean the cabinet and clear the spill sump.
- Correct housekeeping practices for inside and around the cabinet.

Your installation and training program should also have scope for managers and supervisors. Afterall, they are the staff members that enforce housekeeping and operational procedures. It's a good idea to build responsibilities into job descriptions — and hold people accountable for unsafe work practices.

## 6. Carry Out A Post-Installation Check

A few weeks after you've installed your flammable cabinet, you should carry out a post-installation check. By following this checklist, you'll be able to make sure that the cabinet has been properly installed and is also being used correctly by your staff.

Your post-installation check should include:

- Ventilation issues: have workers complained of fumes near the cabinet?
- Prohibited activities: are workers carrying out repairs next to the cabinet?
- Correct usage: are mixed hazard classes being kept inside the cabinet? Is it overloaded?
- Structural integrity: is the cabinet on a level surface? Was the cabinet dented or damaged during installation in a way that could impact the integrity and safety rating of the cabinet?