Corrosive Materials

What is a corrosive material?

Corrosive: Any solid, liquid, or gaseous substance that burns, irritates, or destructively attacks organic tissue. **Chemicals with a pH value less than 4.0 (acidic) or greater than 10.0 (basic) are considered to be corrosive substances.**

Storage Tips for Corrosive Liquids

- Inorganic and organic acids can be stored in the same cabinet provided they have separate secondary containment and the cabinet is labeled with an "Acids" cabinet label. **Exception:** See Oxidizing acid example below.

- Inorganic and organic bases can be stored in the same cabinet provided they have separate secondary containment and the cabinet is labeled with a "Bases" cabinet label.

- Acids and bases can be stored in the same cabinet if separated by secondary containment and the cabinet is labeled with a "Corrosives" cabinet label. **Exception:** See Oxidizing acid example below.

- Flammables and Corrosives shall be stored in separate cabinets. An exception is when introducing oxidizing acids to the acids or corrosives cabinet. If **oxidizing acids** are present in either cabinet then **all organic corrosive chemicals** must be removed. See Oxidizing acid example.

Oxidizing Acid Example: If nitric, perchloric, or chromic acids, etc. (oxidizing acids) are present in the acids or corrosives cabinet then all organic corrosives such as acetic acid, butylamine, etc. need to be moved to another corrosives cabinet (or small amounts may be stored in the flammables cabinet, separated by different secondary containment). The reason that organic corrosives may be stored within the flammables cabinet is because there are a few similar characteristics and this is the only other possible storage option. **Note: This storage practice is acceptable only when oxidizing acids are present in the acids or corrosives cabinet.**

General Chemical Storage Practices

- Hazardous chemicals are those which have the characteristics of being flammable, combustible, toxic, corrosive, oxidizing or reactive.

- **Solid** chemicals that are hazardous can be stored on shelves, in cabinets or in appliances.

Exception: Toxic chemical wastes that are solid and are accumulated in plastic 5 gallon buckets may be stored on the floor.

- **Liquid** chemicals that are hazardous shall be stored in secondary containment and should be stored in an appropriately labeled cabinet. Small volumes can also be stored on shelves, in cabinets or in appliances but must be stored below eye level and in secondary containment at all times.

Exception: Toxic chemical wastes that are liquid and are accumulated in plastic 5 gallon buckets may be stored on the floor provided they are in secondary containment.