

## Risk Insights

Advice for you and your business

# Safe Storage & Disposal: Combustible Waste Material



Help prevent millions of dollars in damages and claims by properly disposing of waste materials that may cause fires.

Combustible waste materials are a potential fire hazard. Following proper storage and disposal procedures is critical.

**1**

### Some tips for safe interior storage

- Containers and lids should be made of metal or other noncombustible material. Containers outside of storage rooms should not be larger than 3.7 square meters or 40 square feet.
- Containers exceeding a 40 gallon capacity should have a lid.
- Remove waste containers at least once per day unless they're stored in a noncombustible waste storage room.
- Never smoke, perform hot work or have open flame within 15 meters or 50 feet of uncovered combustible materials.
- Use approved metal receptacles with self-closing covers for storage and disposal of oil-soaked waste or cloths.

**2**

### Some tips for safe exterior storage

- Keep waste dumpsters at least 3 meters or 10 feet from combustible walls, openings or roof eave lines.
- Keep pallets, wood crating and other packaging a safe distance from walls, openings and roof eave lines.
- Keep waste dumpster lids closed and locked.

**3**

### Some tips for safe waste storage rooms

- Separate waste storage rooms from other parts of the building with walls, floors and ceilings that have a fire resistance rating of more than 2 hours.
- Install approved automatic closing or self-closing fire doors with a fire protection rating of at least 1.5 hours.
- Ensure your waste storage rooms are protected with an automatic sprinkler.

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