



Working Safely With Oxidizers

Oxidizers are chemicals that release large amounts of oxygen. Because oxygen feeds fire, oxidizers can be unpredictable and dangerous. Commonly used oxidizers are concentrated nitric acid, compressed oxygen and hydrogen peroxide.

Oxidizers Are Firebugs

Fire needs oxygen to burn. Oxidizers provide oxygen that can make fires bigger. Inorganic oxidizers can increase the danger of fire around flammable or combustible materials, while organic oxidizers are flammable in themselves. Some organic oxidizers can even explode when they're exposed to heat, shock or friction. Oxidizers can supply oxygen to a fire and support combustion even if there's no oxygen present in the air. They must be kept away from flammable liquids and materials such as wood and paper.

Using Oxidizers

- ☑ Before using an oxidizer, read its material safety data sheet (MSDS) to become familiar with its hazards.
- ☑ Be familiar with fire response procedures and the location of fire extinguishers.
- ☑ Most oxidizers are corrosive and can irritate skin and lungs.
- ☑ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and work under a hood.

Storing Oxidizers

- ☑ Always keep containers of oxidizers tightly closed.
- ☑ Store oxidizers away from other materials, including other oxidizers, in a fire-protected room.
- ☑ Check containers for leaks.
- ☑ Make sure all containers are clearly labeled.
- ☑ Report containers with missing or illegible labels.

IN CASE OF SPILLS

- Clean up small spills immediately.
- In the case of a large spill, evacuate the area and report the spill immediately.
- Let an emergency response team clean up large spills.
- Dispose of cleanup materials in an approved manner.