



their safety is essential. Protecting people, property, and the planet.

Frequently Asked Questions

About U.S. Chemical Storage

U.S. Chemical Storage is a leader in the design and manufacture of pre-fabricated, customizable chemical storage buildings. Our range of buildings covers every need, from storing small containers or lithium batteries, large quantities of IBCs, 2 to 192 drums, to large-scale modular storage. Trust us to help you safely manage your risks when it comes to storing hazardous materials.



U.S. Chemical Storage fire-rated building

What is chemical storage?

It is storage designed and manufactured specifically for housing chemicals, hazardous materials (also known as 'hazmat') and hazardous waste. For more information, visit the EPA website.

Why is there a need for chemical storage buildings?

Chemical storage buildings are designed to store hazmat in safe, segregated and secure areas, and to prevent chemicals from leaking out into the environment in case of a spill. The term secondary containment refers to the sump area in the bottom of the building. The sump is what differentiates the chemical storage building from other storage buildings. The sump is usually a 6-inch deep steel well that is designed to collect liquids through the steel grate flooring.

How should my chemical storage building be designed?

How will the building be used? Will it be a permanent structure or a temporary storage location? Will there be frequent movement of materials in and out of the building? Will chemicals be handled inside of the building? Answers to these questions will dictate fire rating as well as the need for mechanical ventilation or explosion relief panels. Speak to one of our experienced Sales Engineers to learn more about safety accessories for your application.

Do I need shelves?

Shelves are used to help keep chemicals organized. U.S. Chemical Storage offers a variety of shelving for your specific application. Offerings include 16-inch galvanized steel and stainless-steel containment sump shelving with a 2-inch lip. The sump containment lip will prevent small spills from entering the sump in the floor.



How do I comply with regulations?

Chemical storage buildings manufactured by U.S. Chemical Storage are designed to get your operation compliant. Contact a sales engineer to learn how we can find the best solution for your compliance needs. To learn more about specific chemical storage applications in your area, contact your local code authority.

What size building do I need?

Building size is determined by the amount of hazardous material you are planning to store, the need, if any, for working room around these materials, and must take into consideration the most efficient way of moving these materials into and out of your chemical storage building. All flammable chemical storage buildings are available in widths of 6, 8, 10 and 12 feet, and lengths from 6 to 52 feet. Larger and custom sizes are also available.



Standard building drum capacity pictured above

Do I need a fire-rated building?

There are two types of buildings to consider: fire-rated and non-fire rated steel buildings. First identify the materials to be stored and then group them by hazard. There are three steps to consider when deciding between a fire-rated and non-fire rated building. You must first determine what is to be stored and the quantity. Then you must decide where in relation to other buildings and property lines is the desired storage is to take place, and finally schedule a consult with the local authority having jurisdiction or local code expert to determine the storage building requirements. Our team at U.S. Chemical Storage has resources to help analyze your storage needs and building requirements but the final approval is made by the local authority having jurisdiction.



How will location affect my building type?

Location of the building can be either inside another building or outside to fit your needs. Fire Separation, which is the amount of fire rating required between two occupancies, or the separation distance between those two occupancies, is determined by the occupancy ratings, construction types, and distances between both buildings. To determine the required fire separation, it is best to consult with your local code authority. If your hazmat storage building is located at distances greater than 30 feet you may not be required to have a fire-rated building.



Recommended building distances based on fire ratings

For further information call 1-800-233-1480 or visit us online at USChemicalStorage.com

U.S. Chemical Storage is a portfolio company of Justrite Safety Group. Justrite Safety Group is a growing family of leading industrial safety companies. Together we protect workers, workplaces and the environment with a comprehensive range of industrial safety solutions. We cover every facet of the industrial safety landscape—from the storage, containment and clean-up of hazardous materials to safety identification, emergency showers, industrial matting, and motion safety.