

# Safety Tips to Prevent a Flash Fire and Tips on Storage of Flammable Materials



## What is a flash fire?

A flash fire happens when invisible fumes creep along your floor and make contact with a gas pilot light (such as the pilot light on the common household water heater), a spark from an electronic pilot light or flames from the burner itself.

## Preventive tips on flash fires and storage of flammable materials:

### Do's

- ✓ Use flammable liquids for their intended use only.
- ✓ Purchase flammable materials in amounts that are needed to complete the task.
- ✓ Store flammable liquids in approved containers and, if possible, keep in a shed or garage separate from the house, out of the way of children.
- ✓ Keep oily rags in airtight and fireproof containers and wash them out by hand after use.

### Don'ts

- ✓ Never store or put flammable liquids or combustible materials near an open flame.
- ✓ Never store flammable liquids in plastic or glass containers.
- ✓ Never store flammable liquids in a motor vehicle.



## Water Heater Tips:

Do not install a water heater where flammable products may be stored or used, such as a garage, basement, storage area or utility room, unless the pilot flame and main burner are installed according to building code and installation specifications. This will help reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of vapors being ignited by the pilot flame or main burner.

### So remember!!!

#### Vapor and fumes:

- cannot be seen
- are heavier than air
- can travel a long way on the floor
- can be carried by air currents from other rooms to the pilot flame or burner.

Special thanks to The National Fire Protection Association, Underwriters Laboratories and Safety Sense Enterprises, Inc..

*This brochure highlights examples of safety precautions you can consider to help protect yourself, others, and your personal property. Please recognize that a particular precaution may not be appropriate or effective in every circumstance. We encourage you to use your own good judgment about what's appropriate.*