

## Gasoline

Gasoline, when ignited in a controlled manner to power engines, serves a very useful purpose. At times, we may take its presence for granted. Injuries associated with gasoline are a major cause of thermal burns in the United States. It is important to know that gasoline and flammable liquid-related burns are a preventable problem!!

### SAFETY TIPS:

- When filling a gasoline container, leave about two inches of space at the top of the can for proper ventilation. As the gasoline warms up, pressure builds up and spillage can occur.
- Always fuel power equipment outside where there is adequate ventilation to disperse the vapors. Use a funnel to prevent spillage or splashing.
- Never fill the tanks of gasoline-powered equipment when engines are running or when they are hot.
- Store gasoline in safety cans which have flame arrestors and pressure-release valves. Keep away from your home.
- Do not store gasoline in your home; have a safe place outside in a shed to properly store gasoline.
- Hobbies that include art supplies or handicrafts may contain combustible materials and flammable solvents. Always read the use and care directions.
- When applying rubbing alcohol for any reason, avoid an open flame such as matches, cigarette lighters, candles or a pilot light.
- Always read the label on hair spray to see if the contents are flammable. If you use flammable hair spray, use in a well-ventilated area. Never spray hair while smoking or near an open flame.
- When using any kind of adhesives made with combustible or flammable products, such as floor adhesives, make sure all pilot lights are off and use these agents in well-ventilated areas.
- Care should be taken with all aerosol cans as the accelerant and substances in the can may be of a flammable or combustible nature, such as insect spray, spray paints, and lacquers. Aerosol cans should be stored in proper areas and not used when an open flame is in the proximity of: pilot lights on the oven, stoves, dryers and hot water heaters.

### FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Flammable liquids are those having a flash point below 100° F/ 38° C.
- Combustible liquids are those having a flash point at or above 100° F/ 38° C.
- These liquids include chemicals, cleaning fluids, motor gasolines, diesel fuels, and heating oils.
- Flammable and combustible substances, their flash points and intended uses:
- Gasoline – 45° F – fueling an engine
- Fuel oil (diesel, kerosene) – 100-130° F – fuel furnaces and engines.
- Turpentine – 95° F – paint thinner, paint remover, brush cleaner.
- “Gunk” – 100°+ F – auto parts grease remover.
- Stoddard solvent – 100°+ F – general parts cleaner, grease remover.
- Mineral spirits – 104° F – paint thinner, brush cleaner.
- “DE-Solve it” – 160° F – multi-purpose solvent and remover.
- Charcoal lighter fluid – 160°+ F – starting fluid for grills.
- The inappropriate use of flammable/combustible substances, especially gasoline, is becoming the number one cause of burn injuries and death for adults.

## SAFETY TIPS & INFO



- Most people don't realize how easily flammable liquids can burn.
- The heavier-than-air vapors can flow invisibly along the ground and can be ignited by a flame or a spark from a considerable distance.
- Gasoline and its products are often used unsafely for a variety of purposes including cleaning agents for machine and automotive parts, cleaning brushes, grease removal, the starting of a barbecue grill, trash fires and insect control.
- A potential hazard also exists with the use of gasoline around power equipment such as: lawn mowers, power saws, mini-bikes and snowmobiles.
- Particularly dangerous is the use of gasoline to prime automobile carburetors.
- Each year there are a total of over 140,000 gasoline-related fires, including 120,000 vehicles.
- Each year there are over 6,000 gasoline-related injuries.
- Each year, thousands of people visit hospital emergency rooms and/or are hospitalized for gasoline-related injuries.
- Each year nearly \$500 million in direct property damage costs are incurred due to gasoline-related fires.