Because of diverse individual properties of chemicals located in a chemical use area, proper storage may be very complicated. Specific requirements for chemical storage may be obtained from the MSDS, container labels, Colorado Springs Fire Department requirements, or by contacting EH&S.

General considerations for chemical storage are:

- **Ensure all containers are in good condition**, properly capped, and labeled. Labeling should clearly indicate the contents, concentration, hazards, and PI, “owner” or responsible party if in use not in storage.

- **Segregate and store chemicals according to hazard class**. For example, provide physical segregation between acids and bases, as well as oxidizers and flammables.

- **Liquids in breakable containers**, or could cause serious damage or environmental issues if the primary container breaks or leaks, should be stored in secondary containment, impervious to the chemical and capable of holding at least the full quantity of the primary container.

- Refer to the [chemical reactivity worksheet](#) if there are questions on incompatibilities.

- Ensure that storage areas are dry, adequately ventilated, and away from heat and direct sunlight.

- **Avoid storing chemicals -- particularly liquids -- above eye level.**

- Select low shelves or cabinets for heavy containers.

- **Never store chemicals or any other item closer than 18” to the ceiling or within 18” of a sprinkler head or smoke/heat detector.**

- Store temperature sensitive chemicals in freezers or refrigerators that are set at the appropriate storage temperature, as determined by the chemical manufacturer (refer to the MSDS and label instructions for storage requirements). The freezer or refrigerator MUST be labeled “NOT FOR STORAGE OF FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.” In addition, the refrigerator or freezer must be specifically designed for the storage of flammable materials if applicable.

- Observe other special storage considerations
  - Protect water reactive materials, follow [WATER REACTIVE CHEMICALS SOP](#);
  - Protect pyrophoric or other air-sensitive materials from contact with air;
  - Label cryogenic storage locations and follow [CRYOGENICS SOP](#);
  - Store flammable liquids that do not require refrigeration in manufactured flammable liquids cabinets and away from ignition sources. See the [STORAGE AND USE OF FLAMMABLE CHEMICALS SOP](#).

Last reviewed by Cynthia Norton on December 15, 2015.