

Hazardous liquid chemicals require secondary containment while being stored. Secondary containment is any form of outer container or structure capable of holding the contents of a primary container in the event of a chemical release or accidental spill. Containment prevents chemicals from entering drains, reduces the chance of injuries to personnel, and helps facilitate cleanup.

Secondary Containment must meet the following requirements:

- All secondary containers must be constructed of a material that is chemically compatible with the contents of the primary container.
- Secondary containers must be maintained in good condition. Periodic inspections should be performed to look for cracking or other damage that could compromise containment ability.
- Spills or overflow into a secondary containment must be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- At a minimum, secondary containment capacity must be large enough to contain at least 10% of the total volume of the primary containers or 100% of the volume of the largest container. Whichever is greater.



For example:

- 2 - 5 Gallon pails are in storage on a shelf. You need to place both pails into an appropriate secondary containment. Together both pails equal 10 gallons of material:
 - 10% of 10 Gallons = 1 Gallon.
 - 100% of the largest container = 5 Gallons.
- To properly store these two containers in the same containment, you would need a secondary containment with a capacity of at least 5 Gallons.

Secondary Container Construction:

A secondary container must be constructed of a material that is compatible with the chemical(s) that it may need to contain. Secondary containment products can be purchased commercially or be made of items such as storage bins or trays.

Note: Most modern storage cabinets for flammables, corrosives, or other chemicals feature an integrated secondary containment sump built into the bottom. As long as chemicals are stored following the manufacturer's specifications, you will have sufficient secondary containment using a chemical storage cabinet.

Please contact Laboratory Safety at 856-256-5105 or LabSafety@Rowan.edu with any questions related to secondary containment.