



Auto Service Garages

A list of best practices for loss prevention to help Ohio Mutual agent partners and members identify the most common hazards that Auto Service Garages face every day.

Best Practices



- A UL or FM-listed waste receptacle (with self-closing lid) should be used to discard soiled shop rags in the service bays to reduce spontaneous combustion hazards. The receptacles should be emptied outside the building daily.



- Parts cleaning should take place in a UL/FM-listed wash tank using Stoddard or a similar type of higher flash point solvent. The tank is required to have a self-closing lid utilizing a fusible link assembly.

All working drums of flammable liquids should be bonded and grounded to dissipate static electricity while they are being trans-filled to smaller containers, limited to a one-day's working supply. Empty drums of flammable liquids should be removed from the building as soon as practical to reduce the potential for vapor release into the building.



- Utilize multi-drum cradles equipped with an overflow reservoir to assist in the storage and handling of industrial oils.



- Place all non-standard gasoline containers (stored in the open or on shelves) in a UL/FM-listed flammable liquids storage cabinet to reduce fire hazards.

Safely store compressed gas cylinders by observing the following best practices from the American Welding Society.



- Upright and secure with a chain, strap, rack or cable to a stationary building support or to a proper cylinder cart.
- Completely close the valves, and keep the valve protection devices, such as caps or guards, securely in place.
- Store cylinders in a dry, well-ventilated area at least twenty feet from combustible materials.
- Do not keep cylinders in lockers. If they leak, a buildup of flammable or other types of gases.
- Mark the storage area with proper precautionary signs, such as flammable, oxidizer, or toxic.
- Place them in a location away from vehicle traffic and where they will not be subject to mechanical or physical damage, heat, or electrical circuits to prevent possible explosion or fire.
- Store empty cylinders separate from full ones.
- Keep oxygen cylinders twenty feet away from fuel-gas cylinders, such as acetylene, or separate them with a noncombustible barrier (such as a wall) at least five feet high with a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour.

