

FIRE SAFETY CABINET/ FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE

CABINET SPECIFICATIONS

**Now superceded - NATIONAL FIRE CODE OF CANADA 1990 listed these specifications
The new National Fire Code specifies STEEL Cabinets, but does not concern home-workshops.
OSHA still allows this same specification for wooden cabinets**

CONSTRUCTION:

- (a) When *acceptable*, wood storage cabinets constructed in conformance with clauses (b) to (h) may be used in lieu of those described in section (1), (*i.e.: metal cabinets*).
- (b) The top, sides, and bottom of wood cabinets shall be constructed of an exterior grade of plywood (*marine grade is best*) not less than 25 mm thick (1 inch).
- (c) A 50 mm (2 inch) deep liquid tight metal pan shall be provided at the bottom of wood cabinets.
- (d) All joints on wood cabinets shall be rebated AND fastened in 2 directions with flathead wood screws.
- (e) When more than one door is used on wood cabinets, there shall be a rebated overlap of not less than 25 mm (1 inch).
- (f) Hinges on wood cabinets shall be mounted to maintain their holding capacity, even if the screws are loosened or the screws are burned-out.
- (g) Doors on wooden cabinets shall be provided with latches that will keep them securely closed. (*Even when the hinges burn out or off.*)
- (h) Wood cabinets shall be provided with liquid-tight sills beneath the doors, extending not less than 50 mm (2 inches) above the bottom of the cabinet.

{Italics are inserted for explanation only.}

If you think about the specifications, building the cabinet is very simple. One thing that is not mentioned is FINISHING!

As the cabinet is made of plywood, the quickest and cheapest method of finishing will be to paint it. Try using Fire-Retardant paint, putting coats both on the inside and outside of the cabinet

The primary purpose of a flammable storage cabinet is not to prevent the combustion of the contents, (although it does this by starving any fire of oxygen), it is to prevent a fire in your workshop from igniting flammables and growing/accelerating that much larger, very quickly.

IT CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DAMAGE TO AND LOSING YOUR HOME