

APPENDIX B Incompatible Chemicals

Certain chemicals should not be stored (and cannot be easily/safely mixed) with certain other chemicals due to severe exothermicity of reaction or uncontrolled production of a toxic product. In the event of earth tremor or other unexpected breakage, especially during fire, the consequences of proximal storage of incompatible materials can be fatal to staff, fire fighters, and other emergency responders. The following list contains examples of incompatibilities. **The list should not be considered complete.** For complete information about a specific chemical, always consult at least one current Material Safety Data Sheet.

Acetic acid	aldehyde, bases, carbonates, hydroxides, metals, oxidizers, peroxides, phosphates, xylene, chromic acid, nitric acid, hydroxyl compounds, ethylene glycol, perchloric acid, peroxides, permanganates
Acetone	Concentrated nitric and sulfuric acid mixtures, acids, amines, oxidizers, plastics
Acetylene	halogens, mercury, potassium, oxidizers, silver, copper
Alkali/alkaline earth metals	Water, carbon tetrachloride or other chlorinated hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, halogens, aldehydes, ketones, sulfur, plastics, acids
Ammonia (anhydrous)	mercury, calcium hypochlorite, hydrofluoric acid, acids, aldehydes, amides, halogens, heavy metals, oxidizers, plastics, sulfur
Ammonium nitrate	acids, alkalis, chloride salts, flammable & combustible materials, metals, organic materials, phosphorous, reducing agents, urea, chlorates, sulfur
Aniline	acids, aluminum, dibenzoyl peroxide, oxidizers, plastics,
Arsenical materials	Any reducing agent
Azides	acids, heavy metals, oxidizers
Bromine	acetaldehyde, alcohols, alkalis, ammonia, amines, petroleum gases, combustible materials, ethylene, fluorine, hydrogen, ketones (acetone, carbonyls, etc.), metals, sodium carbide, sulfur
Calcium oxide	water, acids, ethanol, fluorine, organic materials
Carbon (activated)	alkali metals, calcium hypochlorite, halogens, oxidizers
Carbon tetrachloride	Sodium
Chlorates	finely divided organic or combustible materials ammonium salts, acids, powdered metals, sulfur
Chlorine	acetylene, alcohols, ammonia, benzene, butadiene, butane, combustible materials, ethylene, flammable compounds (hydrazine), hydrocarbons (acetylene, hydrogen, hydrogen peroxide, iodine, metals, methane, nitrogen, oxygen, propane (or other petroleum gases), sodium carbide, sodium hydroxide
Chlorine dioxide	hydrogen, mercury, organic materials, phosphorus, potassium hydroxide, sulfur, methane, phosphine, ammonia, methane, phosphine, hydrogen sulfide
Chromic acid, chromic oxide.	acetone, alcohols, alkalis, ammonia, bases, acetic acid, naphthalene, camphor, glycerin, flammable liquids in general, naphthalene, camphor, glycerol, benzene, hydrocarbons, metals, organic materials, phosphorus, plastics
Copper	calcium, hydrocarbons, oxidizers, acetylene, hydrogen peroxide
Cumene hydroperoxide	acids (organic or inorganic)
Cyanides	acids, alkaloids, aluminum, iodine, oxidizers, strong bases

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Flammable liquids	ammonium nitrate, chromic acid, hydrogen peroxide, nitric acid, sodium peroxide, halogens, oxygen, oxidizers in general
Fluorine	All other chemicals
Hydrocarbons (liq and gas)	see flammable liquids
Hydrocyanic acid	nitric acid, alkali
Hydrofluoric acid	metals, organic materials, plastics, silica (glass, including fiberglass), sodium, ammonia
Hydrogen peroxide	all organics, nitric acid, phosphorous, sulfuric acid, sodium, most metals or their salts
Hydrogen sulfide	acetaldehyde, metals, oxidizers, sodium, fuming nitric acid
Hydroperoxide	reducing agents
Hypochlorites	acids, activated carbon
Iodine	acetaldehyde, acetylene, ammonia, metals, sodium, hydrogen
Mercury	acetylene, aluminum, amines, ammonia, calcium, fulminic acid, lithium, oxidizers, sodium
Nitric acid	acids, nitrites, metals, sulfur, sulfuric acid, most organics, plastics, sodium
Nitrites	acids
Nitroparaffins	inorganic bases, amines
Oxalic acid	oxidizers, silver, mercury, sodium chlorite
Oxygen	all flammable & combustible materials, oil, grease, ammonia, carbon monoxide, metals, phosphorous, polymers
Perchloric acid	all organics, wood, paper, oil, grease, dehydrating agents, hydrogen halides, iodides, bismuth and alloys
Peroxides, organic	Acids (organic or mineral), avoid friction, store cold
Phosphorus (white)	oxygen, air, alkalis, reducing agents
Potassium chlorate	acids, ammonia, combustible materials, fluorine, hydrocarbons, metals, organic materials, sugars, reducing agents
Potassium perchlorate	alcohols, combustible materials, fluorine, hydrazine, metals, organic matter, reducing agents, sulfuric acid
Potassium permanganate	benzaldehyde, ethylene glycol, glycerol, sulfuric acid
Selenides	Reducing agents
Silver	Acetylene, oxalic acid, tartartic acid, ammonium compounds, fulminic acid, ozonides, peroxyformic acid
Sodium	Carbon tetrachloride, carbon dioxide, water, acids, hydrazine, metals, oxidizers
Sodium nitrate	acetic anhydride, acids, metals, organic matter, peroxyformic acid, reducing agents
Sodium peroxide	Ethyl or methyl alcohol, glacial acetic acid, acetic anhydride, benzaldehyde, carbon disulfide, glycerin, ethylene glycol, ethyl acetate, methyl acetate, furfural, benzene, hydrogen sulfide metals, oxidizers, peroxyformic acid, phosphorous, reducing agents, sugars, water
Sulfides	acids
Sulfuric acid	alcohols, bases, chlorates, perchlorates, permanganates of potassium, lithium, sodium, magnesium, calcium
Tellurides	Reducing agents

Reference: Guide for Safety in the Chemical Laboratory, 2nd ed., Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York, 1972, pp. 215-217, Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories, ACS 7th ed. 2003, and various MSDSs and chemical container labels.