The following information is for guidance only. **Always refer to the SDS** for specific storage information.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DO NOT….** | **WHY** | **DO…** |
| Store acids and bases with solvents.  Put acids and bases in solvent waste containers. | Acids and bases react with solvents creating heat, gas and other violent reactions.  Putting acids and bases in solvent waste could cause waste containers to explode. | Store acids and bases in suitable metal cabinets, which are clearly labelled. |
| Store acids and bases together. | Acids and bases can react violently together. | Store acids and bases separately. |
| Store oxidisers with flammables. | This will aid combustion if a fire were to occur. | Store oxidisers and flammables separately. |
| Store peroxides with flammable solvents. | Peroxides can form explosive materials if they come into contact with solvents. | Store peroxides in a cool environment; such as a fridge. |
| Store acetic acid or acetic anhydride with other acids. | Acetic acid and acetic anhydride are highly flammable and will react violently with acids (especially nitric acid). | Store acetic acid as an organic solvent rather than a corrosive substance. |
| Store pyrophoric substances with flammable solvents. | One is an ignition source the other is a fuel. | Store pyrophoric materials in separate flame proof containers (they are often stored under inert gases but refer to the SDS for specific information). |
| Mix waste chemicals in the same storage containers. | Mixing two or more waste chemicals can cause violent reactions (e.g. chloroform and acetone, or methanol and sodium hydroxide). | Store flammable waste solvents separately from chlorinated solvents (halogenated solvents are typically not flammable and do not need to be stored in a fume hood or flammable cabinet). |
| Store dry ice (cardice) in sealed containers. | The CO2 gas released will over-pressurised the sealed container causing an explosion. | Leave unwanted dry ice in a fume hood to evaporate naturally. |
| Store waste in unlabelled or poorly labelled containers. | Proper labelling minimises the risk of misuse or mishandling of chemical substances, reducing the likelihood of injury. | Clearly and accurately label all chemical storage containers with contents and hazards. |
| Store chemicals near heat or flames. | This is likely to cause a fire or explosion. | Keep heat sources and flames well away from chemicals. |
| Store large quantities of solvents and other hazardous chemicals. | Increase the risk of fire and an injury. | Purchase and store only the minimum quantity needed. Use any leftover amounts before ordering more. |
| Start work without your PI’s permission. | Your Pi is responsible for your safety and must authorise your experiments before work commences. | All COSHH forms and chemical risk assessments must be signed off by your PI to demonstrate that they are satisfied that the proposed activity is safe. |