

Loss Prevention Safety Tip



**Loss Prevention
Program**

By Red River Mutual

GASOLINE STORAGE SAFETY

Gasoline is an important part of our day-to-day lives. We use it to fuel our vehicles as well as our lawnmowers, weed trimmers, boats, off-road vehicles, snow blowers and more. However, gasoline is highly flammable and can be extremely dangerous if not handled or stored safely.

Following these safety tips will help protect you and your family.

- Always store gasoline in a ULC or CSA approved container, in a cool, well-ventilated, secure area away from any heat or ignition sources (pilot lights, electric motors, heaters, stoves, etc.). Be sure to leave room in the container to allow for some expansion.
- Keep gasoline containers tightly sealed and handle them gently to avoid spills.
- Never store gasoline inside the home or garage as vapors are heavier than air and can travel along the floor to ignition sources. For fire safety, store gasoline in a detached garage or shed and only store the minimum amount of gas required – usually 20 litres or less.
- Always keep gasoline away from children.
- Never siphon gasoline by mouth as it can be harmful or fatal if swallowed. If gasoline is swallowed, never induce vomiting – seek medical attention immediately.
- Never refuel lawnmowers, weed trimmers, tillers or any other piece of equipment while it is still hot.
- Use gasoline as a motor fuel only. Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent, degreaser or to clean your hands.
- Never use gasoline in place of kerosene or charcoal lighting fluid.
- Do not use gasoline as a weed killer or pesticide. While it may kill weeds, it can pose devastating environmental consequences for the soil, which can also extend to the groundwater or storm sewer.
- Minor spills should be absorbed with paper, sawdust or rags. Larger spills may be contained and collected. Check with local authorities to determine requirements for safe disposal. Never dispose of spilled gasoline or cleaning materials on the ground or into your garbage, drains, toilets or sewers, as it might cause a fire or seep into groundwater or waterways.
- Never use water on a gasoline fire (Class B fire). The use of water will spread the fire. Always keep a Class ABC portable fire extinguisher at hand in case of emergency.



See more loss prevention tips at www.preventingloss.com

While the safety recommendations in this report are based on apparent and obvious conditions that were found at the time of inspection, the report does not purport to identify all hazards or guarantee compliance with any standards, codes, ordinances or regulations. It is not legal or expert advice, and should not be used in place of consultation with appropriate professionals. Any person relying on this information does so entirely at their own risk. Red River Mutual denies all responsibility for any liability, loss, injury or risk which is incurred as a direct or indirect result of the use of any of the recommendations in this report.