

FIRE LINE



Gasoline at Home

by Fire Marshal Alan Perkins

Most boat motors, lawn mowers, motorcycles, chainsaws and garden tractors use gasoline, a very flammable and potentially dangerous liquid.

What you don't know about gasoline can hurt you so make sure everyone in your household understands how gasoline reacts and behaves before using it.

Gasoline vaporizes easily, filling the surrounding air with fumes that can ignite even if the fuel source is far away from the actual supply of gasoline.

Because they are invisible and heavier than air, gas vapors travel close to the ground, usually going unnoticed until an ignition source ignites them.

When a flammable liquid like gasoline or its vapors ignite, it is explosive and can result in serious and often permanent injuries.

Many gasoline-related accidents occur when it is used as a cleaning agent or to kindle a fire.

Reduce your risk of a gasoline explosion or accident by following these tips:

- Refrain from smoking or using electronic devices while refueling your car or any gas powered appliance.
- Always fuel outdoors.
- Store gasoline outside the home in a locked garage or shed. The container should have a tight-fitting lid that is approved by an independent testing laboratory and be properly labeled.



- Never store gasoline in glass or other non-approved plastic container such as a milk jug. Not only is it illegal, but glass does not breathe and can explode from the build-up of gasoline vapor inside it. Milk jugs and other non-approved plastic containers aren't safe

either because they can react with these plastics causing them to dissolve.

- Make sure that portable gasoline containers aren't completely full. Gasoline vapors expand under ordinary climate conditions and could build up dangerous pressure levels in a container that is full.
- Never carry containers of gasoline in your car's passenger compartment. Transport gasoline in your trunk with the trunk lid ajar.
- Allow gasoline-powered engines to cool completely before refueling them.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaner, solvent, or charcoal lighter. Use only as a fuel for engines.
- Soak up small gasoline spills using clay cat-box litter.
- If you have a gasoline fire, don't attempt to extinguish it. Get everyone away from it and call the fire department.
- Keep gasoline out of children's sight and reach.

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