

HAZARD ALERT: FLAMMABLE CABINET SPILL RISK

FLAMMABLE CABINET SHELVES MAY COLLAPSE

Recently, chemical spills have occurred at a number of universities when shelving in flammable storage cabinets collapsed. In one case, several gallon bottles fell and broke, causing evacuation of the lab and HazMat response. In another case, spilled solvents were ignited, possibly by a spark from a nearby freezer, causing an explosion and fire. Use of incompatible shelving and/or poorly installed shelving clips are thought to have caused these incidents.



From wwhardware.com

Note: Top photo shows correctly installed clip. Clips may be metal or plastic. Check for secure installation with any style of shelf clips.

If you have a flammable storage cabinet, please:

- Make sure shelves are level.
- Make sure shelves fit well. There should be no more than 1/8" uniform gap between shelf and cabinet. If shelves don't fit well, they need to be replaced. One reason for improper fit may be that those shelves were not made for that particular cabinet.
- Check the mechanism for holding the shelves in place.
 - If you see clips like those pictured at left, make sure that all clips are present and that they are firmly secured. Holding the clips with pliers may help when installing the clips.
 - If you notice improperly mounted clips, seat them in place. If clips are loose or missing, replace them.
- If your cabinet is near an electric appliance, consider an alternate location.
- If you discover unneeded chemicals, submit them as waste.