

Irrigation Crews and the Safe Transportation of Chemicals



Irrigation crews transport and use a number of combustible chemicals that may include glues, primers, gasoline, diesel, motor oil, adhesives and sealants. To prevent possible explosion, it is important that care is taken during the transport and use of such chemicals. Further, employers should ensure that appropriate containers are provided and that drivers and other workers are trained in the safe handling and transportation of these chemicals.

When transporting chemicals:

- Keep chemicals outside the cab of the vehicle, such as on a trailer or in the bed of the truck.
- Use safe anti-static Department of Transportation (DOT) approved fuel containers only.
- Comply with applicable DOT requirements for “materials of trade,” including quantity limits and packaging and marking requirements. (See the DOT brochure [“What Are Materials of Trade and What Regulations Apply”?](#))
 - Packaging must be the manufacturer’s original packaging or a package of equal or greater strength and integrity.
 - Packaging must be marked with a common name (such as “gas” or “spray paint”) or a proper shipping name.
- To prevent spills, secure chemicals in crates, cabinets or tool boxes to prevent containers from tipping over, sliding or moving around.
- Carry a Hazmat clean-up kit and know how to respond to accidents and spills. Your employer should provide training on hazardous material clean up.
- Read and understand Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for the chemicals being transported.
- Transport smaller cans of glues and primers in totes or spill proof boxes. This will help to contain any chemicals that spill or leak.
- Make sure all lids are on tight before transporting.
- Do not leave chemicals unattended.



Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, [employers are responsible](#) for providing a safe and healthy workplace and [workers have rights](#). OSHA can help answer questions or concerns from employers and workers. OSHA's [On-site Consultation Program](#) offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. For more information, contact your [regional or area OSHA office](#), call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), or visit www.osha.gov.

Through the OSHA and National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) Alliance, NALP developed this card for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.