

Introduction: Color Coded Fuel Containers

When working or storing different types of fuels, its important to keep them separate and contained in the properly color coded and labeled containers. Here are the common containers:

Gasoline (flammable) in Red

Kerosene in Blue

Diesel in Yellow

Oil (combustible) in Green

Having different colors allows a universal and quick identification of the contents for safe use and storage.

Several container offer additional safety features for minimizing the possibility of accidents or unintentional spillage.

Color Coding and Identification Markings

Each portable fuel container shall have identification markings on the container and on the spill-proof spout. The identification to be in embossed language or permanent durable label in minimum 34-point Arial font or a font of equivalent proportions:

■ **Red containers** shall be labeled "GASOLINE"

■ **Yellow containers** shall be labeled "DIESEL".

■ **Blue containers** shall be labeled "KEROSENE" .

■ **Green containers** shall be labeled "OILS".

Portable fuel containers shall comply with emissions standards as follows:

■ Equipped with an intended spill-proof spout emitting no more than 0.3 grams per gallon per day.

■ Compliance with emission standards shall be determined using the test procedure specified in 9VAC5-45-250 B 2.

Fire Prevention

Proper storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids will help

prevent fires from occurring; only approved, closed containers for storage of flammable or combustible liquids may be used under OSHA rules. Such containers include safety cans or containers approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation. A safety can is a container that has a self-closing lid, internal-pressure relief and flame arrestor with a capacity of not more than 5 gallons. Inexpensive, plastic cans without those features previously mentioned, such as those typically bought at hardware stores or gas stations, are not approved for use in roofing operations. However, manufacturers do sell plastic containers that meet the OSHA requirements for safety cans..

Static electricity when transferring liquids

Static electricity may be generated when transferring liquids, gases or solids through pipes or hoses. It is important to dissipate this electric charge when handling flammable and combustible materials. When transferring flammable or combustible liquids from one container to another, the two containers must be "bonded" together. The bonding process involves attaching a wire with alligator clips on each end to both containers. The clips must penetrate the container coating and touch metal. You may need to score the paint with the alligator clips.. To dissipate static, the container receiving the liquid must be in contact with the ground and not insulated from contact with the ground.

Fuel Cans

