



Storage

Containers

Site containers could contain ductwork sections, components, and stores such as fixings nuts bolts. Some sites stipulate the safe lockable storage of COSHH items such as mastics press stick and paints in well ventilated areas.

Hazardous substances should be stored in an area with a clear exit. It is also advised that the storage area should be close to washing facilities. Substances may also need to be stored in appropriate COSHH cabinets and should always be stored separately from others.

Gas operated lifting equipment would also have to be stored separately away from heat and heat emitting equipment (and direct sunlight) in grid weld type lockable cages. Cylinders should be stored preferably in the open air on a concrete or load-bearing surface. Flammable liquids, combustible, corrosive, oxidising materials, toxic materials, or compressed gas cylinders should be kept separate from LPG containers in general. Containers should be stored with their valves uppermost.

Toolboxes

Site boxes are large, secure storage boxes designed for use on a site. They are generally bigger and heavier than van boxes so you can store more items on-site, including large tools like jackhammers. Due to the weight of these boxes, they have skids underneath so they can be picked up and moved with a forklift truck. Or you can quickly and easily attach castors to the skids if you would rather wheel your box around – the holes for these are pre-drilled.

Van boxes, on the other hand, are not really intended to be moved about, but to be fixed onto your van or truck as a permanent, secure, weather-proof place to store your tools and equipment while you work. They do not tend to come pre-drilled (so they can be fitted to a range of different van types), and don't have skids. A van box is more suitable than a site box if you are in a trade where your van is your 'base' while you carry out your tasks.

Red boxes are flameproof – they are fire retardant for up to 30 minutes and designed for storing flammable liquids and materials. Yellow boxes are designed for the safe storage of potentially harmful chemicals, in line with COSHH regulations. The different colours give everybody on-site a clear warning about what is inside; the colour-coding is also very valuable in the event of a fire, alerting firefighters to the presence and location of any flammable or dangerous substances.

Lockers

Changing rooms are needed wherever workers must wear specialist clothing for work and cannot be expected to change elsewhere. They are also essential for employees who are required to keep their work clothes in safe place at work and are not allowed to take them home/off-site.

Changing rooms must provide seating, a means of drying and storing clothing and a place to secure personal effects. For many construction sites ventilation is key; if clothes are likely to become damp, smelly, or dusty it is a good idea to keep them in secure, but also ventilated lockers to allow them to be fresh and ready for the next working day. Wire mesh lockers provide good visibility whilst ensuring the security of personal items. It allows warm air to circulate through the lockers drying and damp or wet items and keeping them fresh.