

Using Gasoline Safely

Because gasoline is an effective solvent and is readily available, it is often used for cleaning machine parts. However, many people are killed and maimed each year when they use gasoline for cleaning parts.

Gasoline was not designed to wash parts. Its intended use is as a fuel, to burn or explode under controlled conditions.

Would you use thirty sticks of dynamite in a solution to wash parts? That's a no-brainer – of course you wouldn't! Most people do not realize that one gallon of gasoline has the explosive energy of thirty sticks of dynamite.

Don't let the convenience of gasoline persuade you that its hazards can be ignored.

Other important facts about gasoline:

- Gasoline will give off explosive vapors at temperatures as low as -50°F. (flash point).
- Gasoline vapors in the air will explode at a minimum concentration of 1.4%.
- As the temperature increases above the flash point, the rate of vaporization increases.

Here are some tips to remember when using gasoline:

- Remember that gasoline is highly flammable.
- Never use gasoline as a solvent. Use a commercial solvent for washing parts.
- Dispense gasoline only from an approved container.
- Never dispense gasoline in the presence of open flames, sparks, heat, or smokers.
- Store gasoline in a well ventilated area.

When you use gasoline, always think before you act!

For more information, contact your local Hartford agent or your Hartford Loss Control Consultant. Visit The Hartford's Loss Control web site at <http://www.thehartford.com/corporate/losscontrol/>

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