

# Environmental Health and Safety

## Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer (ABHS)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

### Purpose

The Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer (ABHS) document was developed to provide guidance for the installation of alcohol dispensers and the storage of alcohol supplies. ABHS contains ethyl alcohol, which is considered a flammable material and readily evaporates at room temperature, becoming an ignitable vapor. Incidents of fires related to ABHS is low, but it is critically important to safely store bulk containers and properly install and maintain dispensers.

### Installation and Storage Requirements

#### Dispenser Quantities:

- 8-32 ounce for individual disposable pump bottles
- 32 ounces for dispensers in rooms, small offices and classrooms
- 1 gallon (128 ounces) for dispensers in suites, common rooms, and large classrooms

#### Dispenser Installation:

- Avoid placement of ABHS stands along egress paths such as corridors or stairwells where a dispenser can be tipped over
- Separate ABHS dispensers from each other by horizontal spacing of not less than 48 inches
- Do not install dispensers over or directly adjacent to an ignition source such as an outlet, space heater, or warming appliance

#### ABHS Storage:

- Store less than five gallons in a single fire compartment (e.g., janitor or supply closet)
- Storage in excess of ten gallons shall be stored in a flammable liquids cabinet
- Keep the doors to the storage room closed
- Separate from other products and maintain good housekeeping

### General Requirements

<b>Wall Mounted ABHS Dispensers</b>	Install over tile or other non-combustible flooring. Install no higher than 48" above the floor with no obstruction (e.g., water fountain) under dispenser. Consider the swing of doors, pedestrian traffic patterns, and the delivery of goods when installing ABHS dispensers.
<b>Free Standing ABHS Dispensers</b>	Free standing ABHS dispensers should not be placed in areas where they may fall and obstruct egress (e.g., next to exits, center of corridors) or compromise emergency services attempting access to a fire or person experiencing a medical emergency.
<b>Carpeted Areas</b>	Dispensers installed directly over carpeted floors are permitted only in sprinklered rooms or spaces. Do not install ABHS dispensers over carpeted areas in occupancies which are not sprinklered.
<b>Prevent Obstructions</b>	Ensure egress doors to rooms or spaces are not obstructed. Do not obstruct fire extinguishers, sprinklers, pull stations, signage, audio/visual devices, emergency showers, or assisted ADA devices (e.g., auto-door push plates, E-Phones, brail signage).
<b>Prohibited Storage Locations</b>	Keep ABHS storage out of electrical/IT server rooms, mechanical rooms, stairwells, and vestibules exposed to direct sunlight.

