

Safe Storage of Smokeless Powder for Small Arms

Smokeless propellant is flammable. It will ignite by means of heat, spark, static discharge, or friction. It burns with high intensity. When confined, the burning intensity increases. The standard plastic bottle containers supplied with Smokeless Powder for Small Arms are proper storage containers, and present no confinement hazard. Keep your propellant away from heat, spark, static discharge and any other ignition sources.

Ensure that propellant is stored in its original container, and properly labeled. Due to the chemical nature of Smokeless Powder for Small Arms, contact can cause reaction and degradation with certain materials. These may include PVC, Styrofoam, LDPE, wood, and other organic materials.

Smokeless propellant is a type of plastic. Anything that degrades plastic will degrade propellant. This includes heat, direct rays of the sun, and solvents.

Smokeless propellant can degrade over time. Degradation is accelerated by storage at high temperatures. But, when stored at 70° Fahrenheit, propellant can remain stable in excess of 20 years. Normal degradation causes a decrease in energy output. In rare circumstances, degradation can also cause instability and auto-ignition.

Shooters World, LLC recommends that stored propellant be regularly examined. Evidence of degradation includes a red/rusty tinge on propellant grains, and A STRONG NOXIOUS/ACRID ODOR, HIGHLY OFFENSIVE TO THE NOSE. This acrid odor can be closely duplicated by subjecting rusty metal to a bath in muriatic acid. The fumes produced are highly offensive to the nose. Note: The sweet smell of solvents (a by-product of manufacturing) should not be confused with a noxious odor.

All smokeless propellant has an affinity for moisture. Moisture contamination will change your ballistic results (charge weight, velocity, pressure and accuracy). Keep your powder dry. Keep storage bottles capped tightly. Do not store propellant for extended periods in a powder hopper. Return propellant to its original container when your loading session is complete.

National Fire Protection Association guidelines permit storage of "Smokeless Powder for Small Arms" in residences, up to a certain quantity. Check your local ordinances, to ensure regional compliance.

Occasionally, propellant must be disposed of. Quantities of unburned propellant can be known as aquatic pollutants. To prevent potential water pollution, Shooters World, LLC recommends that the disposal of waste propellant be conducted by remote incineration.

Shooters World, LLC recommends further information at:

http://www.saami.org/specifications_and_information/publications/download/SAAMI_ITE_M_200-Smokeless_Powder.pdf