



STORAGE IN BOILER, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, AND FIRE ROOMS

Storing combustible materials is prohibited in boiler, mechanical, electrical equipment, and fire command rooms to reduce fire risk, as these areas contain potential ignition sources and crucial building systems. Regulations, such as Section 315.3.3 of the [International Fire Code](#) (IFC), mandate that these spaces be kept free of non-essential items. This ensures that fires are less likely to start, spread, or interfere with the operation of equipment necessary for life safety and building functions.

WHY IT'S PROHIBITED:

- **Ignition Sources:**
Boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, and electrical rooms are equipped with fuel-fired boilers, electrical panels, and other machinery that can ignite combustible materials.
- **Increased Fuel Load:**
Storing materials like paper, wood, or cloth in these spaces adds to the amount of fuel available in the event of a fire, making it more intense and dangerous.
- **Interference with Equipment:**
Combustible storage can obstruct access to equipment, hindering proper maintenance and potentially leading to equipment failure or malfunction.
- **Fire Spread and Smoke:**
Fires in these critical areas can quickly spread through the building and produce toxic smoke, compromising escape routes and damaging vital systems.

WHAT TO DO:

- **Clear the Spaces:**
Remove all combustible materials that are not essential for the operation of the equipment in these rooms.
- **Maintain Access:**
Ensure that areas around boilers, electrical panels, and other equipment are kept clear for safe access and maintenance.
- **Consult Your Facility's Policies:**
Always check your building's specific safety policies and procedures, as they will reflect the fire codes relevant to your location.

KEY REGULATIONS:

International Fire Code (IFC) 315.3.3

NFPA 1- 10.18.5

International Mechanical Code (IMC) 508.1

OSHA 1910.176 Handling Materials- General Standard 1910.176