



Inspection Techniques: Fueled Equipment Indoors

No. FP-2010-28 July 13, 2010

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to identify the fire code requirements for fuel-fired equipment stored indoors.

Storing liquid or gas-fueled equipment indoors increases the likelihood of an unwanted fire due to accidental leaks or spills; plus the fuel adds to the building's overall fire load.

To address this issue, the fire codes prohibit the storage, operation, or repair of fueled equipment indoors in all but a few special cases.

Fueled equipment includes motorcycles, mopeds, lawn-care equipment, floor-care equipment, cooking equipment, or general maintenance apparatus such as the gasoline-powered pressure washer in the photograph. Fuels may include flammable or combustible liquids, compressed flammable gases, or liquefied petroleum gases (LPGs).



This gasoline-powered pressure washer may be allowed indoors under certain conditions, but should be kept away from the electrical service. Photo contributed by Byron Blake.

Buildings or rooms that are specifically constructed for storage, operation, or repair of fueled equipment may be built as long as they comply with the requirements of the locally adopted building code.

Also, the local fire code official may authorize maintenance equipment storage indoors in approved locations when the aggregate fuel capacity of the equipment does not exceed 10 gallons (38 L), and the building is protected by a sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, *Automatic Sprinkler Systems*.

The fire codes specifically prohibit the storage of any vehicle powered by flammable liquids, Class II combustible liquids, or compressed flammable gases within the living space of a residential occupancy.

The fire official is authorized to require the removal of fueled equipment from any location where it is determined to be hazardous.

For additional information, refer to *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 3, and *NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code*[®], Chapter 20 for individual occupancy groups.

