



## Safety pallet storage



Delivery pallets are common within industries like retail, manufacturing and contracting. They're great tools for moving heavy stacks of products and materials around with ease. But what happens when the pallets are empty and idle?

### DID YOU KNOW

- A pallet's slat design makes it easy for a fire to breathe and hard for an extinguisher to put that fire out.
- Wood pallets were involved in 91% of pallet-related claims.\*
- 65% of pallet-related losses occurred in outside storage.\*
- Sprinkler systems didn't reduce the severity in 43% of indoor pallet fires.\*
- A pallet fire inside a metal building with no sprinkler system can deform the steel, causing a total loss of the building.
- You can help protect your business by safely storing idle pallets of all types (wood, plastic and FM/UL approved).

*\*FM Global, 2015 report of idle pallet storage losses 2002 to 2012*

### PALLET STORAGE TIPS *(in accordance with idle pallet storage NFPA 13 20.14)*

#### ***Interior, by pallet type***

Wood pallets in sprinklered areas designed to OH-2 criteria:

- Make sure piles are no more than six-feet high.
- Keep stacks to a maximum of four with a contiguous clearance of at least eight feet or 25 feet to commodity storage.
- Document the storage of pallets with pictures, height of piles, number of piles in an area, and the distance between piles.

Plastic pallets in high-temp sprinklered areas designed to OH-2 criteria:

- Make sure piles are no more than four-feet high.
- Keep stacks to a maximum of two with a contiguous clearance of at least eight feet or 25 feet to commodity storage.
- Document the type of plastic pallet (FM- or UL-rated pallets are treated the same as wood).



# THINK SAFETY



Risk Control at UFG Insurance | riskcontrol@unitedfiregroup.com

## Safety pallet storage

### **Exterior, no matter the pallet type**

- Keep stacks stable and no higher than 15 feet.
- Piles should not cover more than 400 square feet (that's a 5x5 stack of 48-inch pallets).
- Make sure piles are at least eight feet apart.
- Unless local fire code requires greater distance, piles should remain eight feet from any property line.

### **Clearance between exterior idle pallet storage and other yard storage:**

| Number of pallets | Clearance in feet |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| < 50              | 20                |
| 50 to 200         | 30                |
| > 200             | 50                |

### **Clearance between outside idle pallet storage and building:**

| Construction                   | < 50    | 50 to 200 | > 200   |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Masonry (no openings)          | 0 feet  | 0 feet    | 0 feet  |
| Wood / metal, etc. with AS*    | 10 feet | 20 feet   | 30 feet |
| Wood / metal, etc. without AS* | 20 feet | 30 feet   | 50 feet |

\* automatic sprinkler system

- Exterior plastic storage should require distance to be increased by 100%
- Height of storage should not allow burning pallets to fall on roof.

**Sources:** NFPA 13 "Installation of Sprinkler Systems" 2019 Edition. NFPA 1 "Fire Code" 2018 Edition. FM Property Loss Prevention Data Sheet 8-24 – 2015 Revision.

UFG Insurance is the marketing name used to refer to United Fire & Casualty Company and its property and casualty subsidiaries and affiliates. The information contained herein was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG Insurance accepts no legal liability or responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information and encourages consultation of additional safety information and resources.

This is for informational purposes only and is accurate as of the publication date. It may not reflect subsequent revisions and is intended for use only by UFG Insurance, UFG Insurance agents and their customers, and/or UFG Service Center employees. UFG Insurance does not undertake any obligation to update the information herein between publications.