

PLASTIC PALLETS: HAZARDS OF INDOOR USE AND STORAGE

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INTRODUCTION

Industries have been using wood pallets for the storage and shipping of products for many years. However, the use of plastic pallets has gained popularity in recent years. The increased use of plastic pallets is because they are:

- Lighter weight
- Durable (They do not break apart the way wood pallets do.)
- Power washable
- Resistant to vermin

HAZARDS

Plastic pallets represent a different hazard than that of wood pallets. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), when used indoors, plastic pallets increase the commodity classification within the building resulting in an increase in the sprinkler requirements for the building, storage, and operations. The combustibility of these pallets is different than that of wood pallets as they may burn hotter and potentially overpower the sprinkler system.

