

## Idle Pallet Storage Basics

**The storage of idle, combustible pallets is a severe fire hazard and requires careful loss prevention and control measures in both indoor and outdoor storage facilities. Use of this checklist may reduce the hazards presented by the storage of idle pallets.**

### General

- Pallets are arranged in stable piles and in an orderly fashion.
- Pallets with damage are removed from use and scrapped.
- Pallets are stored flatly and not on an edge.
- Pallet storage areas are separated from other storage areas, located away from compressed gas cylinder or propane tank storage, located away from structural supports, and not blocking means of egress.

### Outside Storage

- Outside storage locations are protected from unauthorized access.
- Pallets are located away from the main building and other outside storage with at least 20 feet of clearance for 50 or fewer stored pallets, at least 30 feet of clearance for 51 – 200 stored pallets, and at least 50 feet of clearance for storage of more than 200 pallets
- Exterior pallet storage areas are clean and well maintained.

### Inside Storage – Wood Pallets

- Floor storage of pallets should be limited to six feet in height, with individual stacks (four pallets per group) separated by at least eight feet, or 25 feet from commodity storage.
- If stacked pallets must be over six feet in height, they should be protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\) 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems](#).
- Rack storage should not be permitted unless protected by an Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinkler system, in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

### Inside Storage –Plastic Pallets

- Pallets stored in cutoff rooms (rooms located within the main building that have at least one outside wall) that are limited to 12 feet in height should be protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.
- Steel columns in cutoff rooms should be protected by a one-hour, fire-rated covering.
- Walls in cutoff rooms should have a three-hour fire resistance rating.
- Storage outside of cutoff rooms should be limited to 10 feet in height and protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.
- Rack storage should be protected by an Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinkler system, designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** - The information and suggestions presented by Western National Insurance Company in this Technical Bulletin are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other, laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.