



TINLEY PARK FIRE PREVENTION

INSTALLATION OF HAND SANITIZER DISPENSERS



Hand sanitizer is a popular hygiene product that provides important health benefits in terms of preventing the spread of germs and harmful bacteria. Hand sanitizer was originally developed for use in healthcare environments, but is now widely used in many settings. Today, we see containers of hand sanitizers on countertops, dispensers mounted on walls and anywhere where people are expected to be present.

While the use of hand sanitizers is one of many tools to protect our health, if not properly handled, can be a significant fire hazard. The main ingredient in sanitizers is alcohol. The amount of alcohol needed for an effective disinfecting solution is high enough to be classified as a flammable liquid¹.

To reduce the risk of fire when using alcohol-based hand rubs consider the following².

WALL MOUNTED MANUAL DISPENSERS



- Maximum capacity of each dispenser shall be 68 ounces.
- Minimum separation between dispensers shall be 48 inches.
- Do not install dispensers directly adjacent to, directly above or below an electrical receptacle/switch/appliance/device or other ignition source.
- The wall space between the dispenser and the floor shall remain clear and unobstructed.
- Dispensers shall be mounted so that the bottom of the dispenser is a minimum of 42 inches and a maximum of 48 inches above the finished floor.
- Dispensers shall not release their contents except when the dispenser is manually activated.

WALL MOUNTED "TOUCH FREE" DISPENSERS

Automatically activated "touch free" dispensing devices need to be installed using these additional requirements.

- Persons responsible for the dispensers shall test the dispensers each time a new refill is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's care and use instructions.
- Activations of the dispenser shall only occur when an object is placed within 4 inches of the sensing device.
- An object placed within the activation zone and left in place will cause only one activation.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau for additional information on the following items or any questions that you may have. Fire Prevention can be reached at 708.444.5200.

- Bulk storage (greater than 10 gallons) of alcohol-based hand rubs.
- The use and installation of dispensers that use aerosols.
- Dispensers installed in occupancies without an approved automatic sprinkler.



¹ Flashpoint of 100°F

² Based on the requirements of the 2012 International Fire Code, Section 5705.5