

Incompatibility chart of prevalent lab chemicals:

Chemical	Incompatible with
Acetic Acid	Chromic Acid, nitric acid, hydroxyl-containing compounds, ethylene glycol, perchloric acid, peroxides, and permanganates.
Acetone	Bromine, chlorine, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, and hydrogen peroxide.
Acetylene	Bromine, chlorine, copper, mercury, fluorine, iodine, and silver.
Alkaline and Alkaline Earth Metals such as calcium, lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, powdered aluminum	Carbon dioxide, carbon tetrachloride and other chlorinated hydrocarbons, water, Bromine, chlorine, fluorine, and iodine. <b>Do not use CO<sub>2</sub>, water or dry chemical extinguishers. Use Class D extinguisher (e.g., Met-L-X) or dry sand.</b>
Aluminum and its Alloys (especially powders)	Acid or alkaline solutions, ammonium persulfate and water, chlorates, chlorinated compounds, nitrates, and organic compounds in nitrate/nitrate salt baths.
Ammonia (anhydrous)	Bromine, chlorine, calcium hypochlorite, hydrofluoric acid, iodine, mercury, and silver.
Ammonium Nitrate	Acids, metal powders, flammable liquids, chlorates, nitrates, sulfur and finely divided organics or other combustibles.
Aniline	Hydrogen peroxide or nitric acid.
Bromine	Acetone, acetylene, ammonia, benzene, butadiene, butane and other petroleum gases, hydrogen, finely divided metals, sodium carbide, turpentine.
Calcium Oxide	Water
Carbon (activated)	Calcium hypochlorite, all oxidizing agents.
Caustic (soda)	Acids (organic and inorganic).
Chlorates or Perchlorates	Acids, aluminum, ammonium salts, cyanides, phosphorous, metal powders, oxidizable organics or other combustibles, sugar, sulfides, and sulfur.
Chlorine	Acetone, acetylene, ammonia, benzene, butadiene, butane and other petroleum gases, hydrogen, finely divided metals, sodium carbide, turpentine.
Chlorine Dioxide	Ammonia, methane, phosphine, hydrogen sulfide.
Chromic Acid	Acetic acid, naphthalene, camphor, alcohol, glycerine, turpentine and other flammable liquids.
Copper	Acetylene, hydrogen peroxide.
Cumene Hydroperoxide	Acids
Cyanides	Acids
Flammable Liquids	Ammonium nitrate, chromic acid, hydrogen peroxide, nitric acid, sodium peroxide, bromine, chlorine, fluorine, iodine.
Fluorine	Isolate from everything.

Hydrazine	Hydrogen peroxide, nitric acid, and other oxidizing agents.
Hydrocarbons	Bromine, chlorine, chromic acid, fluorine, hydrogen peroxide, and sodium peroxide.
Hydrocyanic Acid	Nitric acid, alkali.
Hydrofluoric Acid	Ammonia, aqueous or anhydrous.
Hydrogen Peroxide (anhydrous)	Chromium, copper, iron, most metals or their salts, aniline, any flammable liquids, combustible materials, nitromethane, and all other organic material.
Hydrogen Sulfide	Fuming nitric acid, oxidizing gases.
Iodine	Acetylene, ammonia (aqueous or anhydrous), hydrogen.
Mercury	Acetylene, alkali metals, ammonia, fulminic acid, nitric acid with ethanol, hydrogen, oxalic acid.
Nitrates	Combustible materials, esters, phosphorous, sodium acetate, stannous chloride, water, zinc powder.
Nitric acid (concentrated)	Acetic acid, acetone, alcohol, aniline, chromic acid, flammable gases and liquids, hydrocyanic acid, hydrogen sulfide and nitratable substances.
Nitrites	Potassium or sodium cyanide.
Nitroparaffins	Inorganic bases, amines.
Oxalic acid	Silver, mercury, and their salts.
Oxygen (liquid or enriched air)	Flammable gases, liquids, or solids such as acetone, acetylene, grease, hydrogen, oils, phosphorous.
Perchloric Acid	Acetic anhydride, alcohols, bismuth and its alloys, paper, wood, grease, oils or any organic materials and reducing agents.
Peroxides (organic)	Acid (inorganic or organic). Also avoid friction and store cold.
Phosphorus (white)	Air, oxygen.
Phosphorus pentoxide	Alcohols, strong bases, water.
Potassium	Air (moisture and/or oxygen) or water, carbon tetrachloride, carbon dioxide.
Potassium Chlorate	Sulfuric and other acids.
Potassium Perchlorate	Acids.
Potassium Permanganate	Benzaldehyde, ethylene glycol, glycerol, sulfuric acid.
Silver and silver salts	Acetylene, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, fulminic acid, ammonium compounds.
Sodium	See Alkali Metals
Sodium Chlorate	Acids, ammonium salts, oxidizable materials and sulfur.

Sodium Nitrite	Ammonia compounds, ammonium nitrate, or other ammonium salts.
Sodium Peroxide	Any oxidizable substances, such as ethanol, methanol, glacial acetic acid, acetic anhydride, benzaldehyde, carbon disulfide, glycerol, ethylene glycol, ethyl acetate, methyl acetate, furfural, etc.
Sulfides	Acids.
Sulfur	Any oxidizing materials.
Sulfuric Acid	Chlorates, perchlorates, permanganates, compounds with light metals such as sodium, lithium, and potassium.
Water	Acetyl chloride, alkaline and alkaline earth metals, their hydrides and oxides, barium peroxide, carbides, chromic acid, phosphorous oxychloride, phosphorous pentachloride, phosphorous pentoxide, sulfuric acid, sulfur trioxide.

**General rules for chemical incompatibilities**

SUBSTANCE CATEGORY	INCOMPATIBLE SUBSTANCES
Alkali metals, e.g. sodium, potassium, caesium and lithium	Carbon dioxide, chlorinated hydrocarbons, water
Halogens	Ammonia, acetylene, hydrocarbons
Acetic acid, hydrogen sulfide, aniline, hydrocarbons, sulfuric acid	Oxidizing agents, e.g. chromic acid, nitric acid, peroxides, permanganates