

# ORGANIC ACIDS

## Hazard Description

Organic acids are acids that contain a carbon-hydrogen backbone. Are often the weaker of acids.

When handling corrosive chemicals, the eyes and skin are most commonly at risk, however failure to use proper protective equipment and handling procedures can result in exposures to the respiratory and digestive tract through inhalation and ingestion as well.

## Examples

- Oxalic acids
- Trichloroacetic Acid
- Malic Acid

## Storage

- May not be stored with inorganic acids, oxidizing acids, or all bases. Organic acids are ideally stored in a flammable cabinet.
- If stored in the same cabinet as inorganic acids, they should at a minimum be on a different shelf with both types of acids in their own secondary containment.
- Organic acids should not be stored near cyanide or sulfide containing chemicals to prevent formation of hydrogen cyanide or hydrogen sulfide gas.
- Organic acids should not be stored near metal piping that supplies natural gas or water.
- Take note if an organic acid has a flammable/combustible hazard associated with it, the acid should be stored with flammables (ideally in its own secondary containment)

## Hazardous Waste

- Must be disposed of as per the [University's Hazardous Waste Standard](#).
- Label as organic acid.

