Chemical Storage Patterns

Storage of chemicals presents a variety of hazards, such as incompatibility, fire hazards, toxicity, etc. A solution is to divide chemicals into organic and inorganic chemicals and further divide them into compatible families. Flinn Scientific, Inc. suggests the following groupings:

Inorganic

1. Metals, Hydrides
2. Acetates, Halides, Iodides, Sulfates, Sulfites, Thiosulfates, Phosphates, Halogens, Oxalates, Phthalates, Oleates
3. Amides, Nitrates (except Ammonium Nitrate), Nitrites, Azides
4. Hydroxides, Oxides, Silicates, Carbonates, Carbon
5. Sulfides, Selenides, Phosphides, Carbides, Nitrides
6. Chlorates, Bromates, Iodates, Chlorites, Hypochlorites, Perchlorates, Perchloric Acid, Peroxides, Hydrogen Peroxide
7. Arsenates, Cyanides, Cyanates
8. Borates, Chromates, Manganates, Permanganates, Molybdates, Vanadates
9. Acids (except Nitric) (Nitric Acid is isolated and stored by itself.)
10. Sulfur, Phosphorus, Arsenic, Phosphorus Pentoxide
11. Inorganic miscellaneous

Organic

1. Acids, Amino Acids, Anhydrides, Peracids
2. Alcohols, Glycols, Sugars, Amines, Amides, Imines, Imides
3. Hydrocarbons, Esters, Aldehydes, Oils
4. Ethers, Ketones, Ketenes, Halogenated Hydrocarbons, Ethylene Oxide
5. Epoxy Compounds, Isocyanates
6. Peroxides, Hydroperoxides, Azides
7. Sulfides, Polysulfides, Sulfoxides, Nitriles
8. Phenols, Cresols
9. Dyes, Stains, Indicators
10. Organic miscellaneous

Source: Flinn Scientific, Inc. “Suggested Sequence of Steps to More Safely Organize Your School’s Chemical Stores Area.” www.flinnsci.com