Preparing Containers for Welding or Cutting: 2001

Containers come in all shapes and sizes

Tanker  Storage Drum  Tire and Rim  Hydraulic Piston

Storage Containers  Liquid Storage Cans  Fuel Tank  Water Tank
ALL CONTAINERS ARE HAZARDOUS UNLESS VERIFIED SAFE

Explosions, fires, and health hazards may result if welding or cutting is performed on containers that are not free of hazardous substances, such as combustible, reactive, or toxic solids, liquids, vapors, dusts, and gases.

Read and understand the manufacturer’s instructions and your employer’s safe practices.

Your Safety Director or Supervisor should be consulted when specific questions arise.

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For more information refer to AWS F4.1, *Recommended Safe Practices for the Preparation for Welding and Cutting of Containers and Piping*, available from the American Welding Society, 550 N.W. LeJeune Road, Miami, FL 33126. AWS *Safety and Health Fact Sheets* are available for free download at www.aws.org.
cleaning methods

Choose a cleaning method which will remove any residue in the container. Common methods use water, hot chemical solutions, or steam. Mechanical or chemical methods may also be required.

NOTE: Dispose of used cleaning medium in an environmentally safe manner consistent with local, state, and federal regulations. Water in contact with residues may react to produce alkaline or dilute acids, or release highly flammable hydrogen.

1. Water Cleaning

This method is preferred when the substance in the container is known to be safely and readily soluble in water.

- **FILL** the container with water and drain.
- **REPEAT** the operation as many times as required to remove all traces of residue from the container.
- **BE CAREFUL**—dilute acids or alkaline materials can react with metal to liberate hydrogen, a highly flammable gas.