



# Safety Tip of the Week

*Your Safety Is Our Business®*

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## Handling 55-Gallon Drums Safely

With the average 55-gallon drum weighing between 400-600 pounds, manually transporting, decanting, or otherwise handling drums is not only physically demanding, but also a potentially dangerous task for any worker.



### Risk Factors:

At least four serious injuries can occur if a 55-gallon drum is not handled safely:

- Fractures;
- Lacerations;
- Hernias; and/or
- Back strain.

By taking a few precautions before you attempt to move a drum, you can help prevent these serious and painful injuries.

Some of the common safety hazards associated with industrial drum handling include:

- Heavy drums that can't be handled manually;
- A size and shape that makes the lightest, or even empty, drums unwieldy to handle manually;
- Confined spaces in which workers are unable to use forklifts or other material handling equipment;
- Storage of drums in restricted spaces where worker range of motion is severely restricted.
- Unsafe floor conditions in which slipperiness, clutter, or uneven surfaces can cause trips or falls.
- Half-filled drums that have the potential to shift their weight while in transport;
- Hazardous materials that can leak out of improperly sealed drums; and
- High volumes of industrial drums, even when moved safely, can lead to overexertion and musculoskeletal strain associated from manual handling.

**Keep safety in mind...It will save your behind!!**