

Operation of ethanol fireplaces with open flames produced by the use of inflammable liquids

Unfortunately, serious burn injuries are frequently sustained as a result of using ethanol fireplaces. This leaflet is therefore intended to provide you with useful information. Always read the operating instructions supplied with the fireplace before using it for the first time and memorise all of the pertinent requirements.

The following directions must be observed:

Identification markings

The fireplace must bear a permanently affixed rating plate containing details of the type designation and relevant technical parameters, particularly including the air supply and the heater rating, as well as the name of the manufacturer with postal address.

These fireplaces are not subject to the requirements for the [CE](#) marking.

German [GS](#) markings are not granted for ethanol fireplaces as a greater risk is always associated with their use due to the (desired) open flame.

Stability / secure mounting

Every fireplace must stand firmly or be mounted securely!
It must not wobble or be of an unstable design. The most effective way of preventing fuel spillages is to anchor the fireplace to the floor.

Wall-mounted fireplaces must have appropriate mounting facilities. Wall plugs (e.g. steel plugs) have been known to soften when exposed to the heat, resulting in the fireplace falling off the wall.

It must be possible to extinguish the flame

Make sure that the fireplace has a facility that enables you to extinguish the flame!

If this is not the case, the fireplace must be monitored until all of the ethanol has been consumed. This may take several hours under certain circumstances.

Please also ensure that no inflammable vapours can build up as a result of ethanol accumulating in a large hollow cavity, for example, during the period leading up to the time when the fireplace is used again. This would give rise to a jet of flame as a minimum risk when the fireplace is ignited again.

Check for the presence of a collecting tray

The fireplace should be equipped with a collecting tray, which may be filled with non-combustible, ethanol-binding material, to ensure that ethanol spilled inadvertently while filling the reservoir or when the fireplace is knocked does not spread, and offers an effective means of combating potential fire risks.

Fuelling the fireplace - no more than once a day

Only refuel the fireplace once a day.

The fireplace must not be refuelled again while the event is in progress (during the day).

Filling ethanol into a fireplace that is still hot constitutes the greatest potential hazard!

Jets of flame or deflagration may be caused as a result.

Exclusive use of ethanol as fuel

Ethanol is the only fuel which may be used!

Never use petrol or diesel as they could endanger your life!

Methanol must not be used either, if for no other reason than it produces a barely visible flame.

It also causes a toxic reaction in contact with the skin.

Clearance from combustible objects

Maintain a clearance of at least 1 m between the fireplace and items of furniture, curtains or any other combustible materials! People must also maintain this clearance in order to prevent air turbulence, which could fan the flame.

Ensure adequate ventilation

A fire consumes oxygen. An ethanol fireplace is no different to a conventional one in this respect, but is very much so when it comes to the discharge of the carbon dioxide produced by the fire. A conventional fireplace consumes oxygen and discharges the carbon dioxide to the outside via the chimney. An ethanol fireplace, on the other hand, has no vent and the carbon dioxide is therefore released into the surrounding air.

Inadequate air circulation may give rise to serious headaches, nausea and other symptoms. You should therefore always leave a door open (e.g. in a cubicle) and use a stopper to prevent it closing inadvertently.

People suffering from breathing difficulties

People suffering from breathing difficulties are advised not to enter rooms in which ethanol fireplaces are being used.

Storing fuel

Store ethanol in a well-ventilated room, well out of the reach of children. The alcohol should never be stored in the immediately vicinity of the fireplace.

It is prohibited to store or use combustible liquids (refer to the version of the German Ordinance on Combustible Liquids dated 24 Feb 1997, Federal Law Gazette Vol. I, page 447) in the exhibition halls or on the premises without written permission.

Permission to store and use combustible liquids may be granted for the operation or demonstration of exhibits. Applications must be submitted to Messe Frankfurt with the pertinent safety data sheet.

Day tank:

No more than the quantity of combustible liquid required for a single day's operation may be kept on the stand for operation and demonstration purposes. The actual quantity must be given in the application.

Storage tank:

The daily requirement must be stored in shatter-proof, closed containers that are easily recognizable. They must be inaccessible to unauthorised persons. Storage tanks must be kept in non-combustible collecting containers.

Example:



Storage location:

Smoking must be strictly prohibited in the vicinity of the storage location. Appropriate signs must be provided. Suitable hand-held fire extinguishers must be readily accessible.

Requirements to be met before putting a fireplace into service

Always keep a 6 kg ABC fire extinguisher and a fire blanket in accordance with DIN EN 1869 within easy reach.

Furthermore, no inflammable materials may be kept in the immediate vicinity of the exhibit.

All underlying surfaces and the rear and side walls around the exhibit must be made of non-combustible materials.

Ethanol fireplaces must not be positioned on the outside boundary of the stand.

Positioning within the stand area must be discussed and agreed with Messe Frankfurt's Technical Event Management - Trade Fairs

The quantity of combustible liquid stored on the stand must not exceed the quantity required for a single day.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Messe Frankfurt's Technical Event Management - Trade Fairs.

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