



Austin Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Office  
512-974-0160 | [AFDHighPile@austintexas.gov](mailto:AFDHighPile@austintexas.gov)

## High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational Permit

The Austin Fire Department (AFD) requires a High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational Permit (HPCSO) for solid-pile, palletized, or rack storage inside of a building in an aggregate area of 2,000 Ft.<sup>2</sup> or more. When the aggregate storage area is  $\geq 2,000$  Ft.<sup>2</sup> the requirements for an HPCSO permit apply for storage of Class I-IV commodities over 12 feet in height or High-Hazard commodities over 6 feet in height. The High-Piled permits do not transfer from property to property.

High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational permit can be obtained from the AFD Fire Marshal's Office. To apply for a new High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational permit, or renew an existing permit, [complete this online form](#). Permits are required to be renewed every three years. The fee for a High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational Permit varies depending on the aggregate storage area. An estimate of the permit cost will be provided at the time of submission, and a bill with the final fee will be provided once the inspection has been completed and approved.

Before the installation of steel storage racks a plan review by the Development Services Department is required before a High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational Permit can be issued. To contact Development Services Department please email them at [commercialreview@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialreview@austintexas.gov) or visit [Commercial Plan Review | AustinTexas.gov](#).

Please email questions about the High-Piled Combustible Storage Operational Permit process to: [afdhighpile@austintexas.gov](mailto:afdhighpile@austintexas.gov).

### High-Piled Combustible Storage

The 2021 International Fire Code Chapter 32 addresses safety issues associated with the storage of combustible materials in closely packed pile or on pallets, in racks or on shelves where the top of the storage is greater than 12 ft in height or 6 ft for high-hazard commodities. It provides requirements for identifying various classes of commodities; and general fire and life safety features including storage arrangements, fire department access and housekeeping and maintenance.

AFD engineers are available to respond to emailed questions about the Fire Code as it pertains to high-piled combustible storage. Send inquiries to: [fireprevention@austintexas.gov](mailto:fireprevention@austintexas.gov).

### Other High-Piled Related Documents:

- [Common High-Piled Combustible Storage Inspection Violations](#) (PDF)
- [2021 International Fire Code Storage Requirements](#) (PDF)