



Learning Objective: The student shall be able to define the term “carboy.”

The small containers in the photograph are known as “carboys” which are vessels used to transport liquid materials. The metal carboys in the illustration were used to hold cryogenic fluids.

The word “carboy” is derived from the Persian word *qarabah* or from the Arabic word *qarraba*, which are translated to mean “big jug”.

Carboy capacities generally range in size from 5 to 15 gallons (19 to 56.7 L) and may be made of glass, plastic, or steel. Glass carboys may be installed in a fiberglass or wood box to protect them from breakage.



These metal carboys were used to transport cryogenic fluids.

Carboys are used to carry a variety of liquid materials, including corrosives (such as nitric, sulfuric, or other strong acids), flammable or combustible solvents, or flammable or oxidizing cryogenic fluids. The carboy construction must be compatible with the type of material it carries.

Carboys may be used to transport the product from a larger storage vessel to a worksite where only smaller quantities of the materials are needed. In labs, research, and production facilities, carboys also may be used to collect and store waste solvents awaiting processing and recycling.

Due to their size and shape, carboys may be difficult to handle safely while transferring liquids. The potential for spills and splashes is high, so a tilting stand on which the carboy is placed is recommended. The carboy should be equipped with a pouring spout to control liquid dispensing.

Since full carboys may weigh as much as 135 lbs (61.2 kg) hand-carrying them may be difficult and dangerous. They should be transported on approved safety carts or safety bottle carriers.

For additional information, refer to the *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 27.

