



FIG 43-9—*Left* Rubbish disposal container made from a 55-gal drum is equipped with an automatic self-closing cover which is released in event of fire
Above Waste receptacle for more-public area

Housekeeping

Collection and storage of combustibles. Many industrial fires are the direct result of accumulations of oil-soaked and paint-saturated clothing, rags, waste, excelsior, and combustible refuse. Such material should be deposited in noncombustible receptacles, having self-closing covers, that are provided for this purpose and removed daily from the work areas (Fig 43-8 and -9).

Exhaust systems of effective design will remove gases, vapors, dusts, and other airborne contaminants—many of which may be fire hazards. Exhaust systems and machine enclosures will help to prevent accumulation of combustible materials on floors or machine parts. Such materials are most hazardous when airborne rather than when they have settled out.

Clean waste, although not as dangerous as

oil-soaked waste, is readily combustible and should be kept in metal cans or bins with self-closing covers. Excelsior, cotton, kapok, jute, and other highly combustible fibrous material should be stored in covered noncombustible containers and, if large quantities are kept on hand, in fire-resistant rooms equipped with fire doors and automatic sprinklers. Portable extinguishers, hose lines, or other extinguishing equipment for Class A fires should be available for use at such storage places.

A schedule for safe collection of all combustible waste and rubbish should be a part of the fire prevention program. The safety professional should be certain that janitorial personnel or others involved in collection of waste paper in offices and service areas have fire-safe collection containers. It is important to check collection practices to be sure that