



## oxygen safety

Always use oxygen carefully. Oxygen is a safe gas when used properly. It will not burn or explode. However, it does support and rapidly accelerates combustion.

**Here are some home safety precautions you should follow when you are using your oxygen:**

- Notify the fire department and the electric company that you are using oxygen.
- **Never** use or store your oxygen near an open flame or heat source. It should be kept **at least 10 feet** away. (candles, fireplace, gas stoves, hot water heaters)
- **Never smoke** when you are using oxygen. Also **don't** allow anyone else to smoke in the room while the oxygen is in use.
- Always have the **"NO SMOKING"** and **"Oxygen in Use"** signs posted in a visible place to let visitors and emergency personnel know that oxygen is in use.
- **Do not** use your oxygen **within 10 feet** of electrical appliances; especially stoves, heaters, toasters, electric razors, and hair dryers.
- You should be extra cautious that the electrical appliances you use are in good condition. An old appliance can potentially generate a spark which could ignite when exposed to oxygen.
- **Do not** use your oxygen in an area where combustible materials such as oils, greases, aerosol sprays, lotions, cleaning fluid, paint thinner, gasoline, or alcohol-containing sprays, or solvents are present.

- **Never** use oil-based or petroleum-based face creams, Vaseline, or ChapStick when using oxygen. Using these products actually burns or irritates the skin more. Oil and alcohol are flammable and could potentially ignite. **Use water-based products only.**
- **Don't** use an extension cord with the oxygen concentrator and don't plug it into an outlet that has other appliances plugged into it.
- **Never** place anything on the top of the oxygen concentrator such as drinks, plants, or books.
- **Never** place the oxygen concentrator against a wall, curtains, or in a closet when it is being used. Room air **must** be able to freely flow into the back of the unit.
- **Always turn your oxygen off when not in use.**
- Smoke detectors should be tested every month.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher within easy reach. Make sure everyone living in the home knows how to use it.
- **Never** leave an oxygen cylinder freestanding, lay it down next a wall, and secure it. Oxygen in the cylinder is stored under pressure and if damaged, it can become a missile and shoot off at a high rate of speed.
- Oxygen cylinders should **not** be stored in a confined area such as under a bed. Placement under the patient's bed could be acceptable provided there are **no** bed coverings that would block airflow and **no** heat source is located under the bed.
- **Never** stack oxygen cylinders on top of one another.
- Oxygen cylinders should **not** be stored in an area where the temperature goes above 125 degrees Fahrenheit. **Never** store oxygen cylinders in a car trunk or a hot vehicle.
- **Always** "crack" the oxygen cylinder valves before attaching regulators in order to get rid of dirt and debris from the outlet port of the valve.