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Small Compressed Oxygen Cylinders

Purpose

The purpose of compressed oxygen cylinders is to provide you with supplemental oxygen for breathing. Oxygen is the gas we breathe that makes life possible. The air we breathe is composed of approximately 21% oxygen, with the remainder being other gasses, primarily nitrogen. The oxygen content dispensed from medical compressed cylinders is 99.9%. Because of its pure form, the oxygen supplied in compressed cylinders is considered a drug and requires a prescription in order to be dispensed. The oxygen being supplied to you is in conjunction with the prescription we obtained from your physician.

Oxygen service should never be interrupted. Your oxygen supplier makes every effort to make sure you are supplied with enough oxygen to meet your medical treatment plan plus an additional amount in case your demand rises or an emergency presents itself. Your oxygen provider is available 24 hours a day in the event that your oxygen supply is not sufficient or if your equipment is not functioning properly.

Company:	
Emergency phone number:	

Types

Compressed cylinders that supply oxygen come in many different sizes, cylinder constructions, and internal pressures. The size of the compressed cylinder provided to you has been selected to meet your oxygen consumption and activity needs. Oxygen is delivered from the compressed cylinder through a regulator and flowmeter. The flowmeter allows you to select the desired oxygen delivery rate, which is expressed as liters per minute (LPM).

In some cases a humidifier is added to an oxygen delivery system in order to moisten the dry oxygen gas. Humidifiers are usually only provided for higher oxygen flows. If you are using a humidifier, please follow the instructions on the Oxygen Humidifier Patient Education Sheet.

All oxygen compressed cylinders must be supplied as part of a treatment plan from your physician. Your physician's treatment plan includes the following oxygen prescription:

At rest _____ liters per minute.
 During exercise _____ liters per minute.
 While sleeping _____ liters per minute.
 Use for _____ hours per day.

Use

The most important part in using compressed oxygen cylinders is to understand your oxygen prescription and use the oxygen only as the physician has prescribed. Do not deviate from the prescription documented above without first contacting your physician and then contacting your oxygen supplier. Too much oxygen can be harmful.

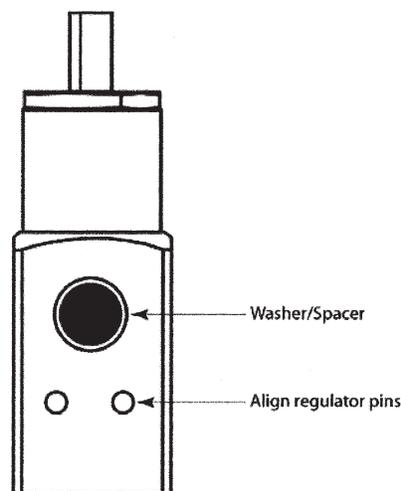
Use (Continued)

Each compressed oxygen cylinder has been sealed by the manufacturer with either a protective cap or seal. Additionally, each compressed oxygen cylinder is labeled, just like a drug. The label states what gas is in the compressed cylinder and its purity level. The label on the compressed cylinder should be inspected before use. Even though oxygen cylinders are usually green, do not trust the color of the oxygen cylinder to guarantee the gas inside. Read each label to make sure it says OXYGEN U.S.P.

To connect a compressed oxygen cylinder to the regulator and flowmeter, the protective seal must be removed. Place the regulator over the post of the compressed cylinder and align the two pins into the designated holes. Ensure that the washer is in the correct position. Tighten the regulator yolk handle until it is tight and firmly aligned with its guide hole.

Once the regulator is tight, use the oxygen wrench to open the cylinder and let oxygen flow into the regulator. The pressure gauge on the regulator will designate the pressure of oxygen in the compressed cylinder. If you hear a loud hissing sound when the oxygen tank is opened, this means that either the washer above the two prongs is missing or the regulator is not tight enough. Close the oxygen tank valve and replace the washer or tighten the regulator.

Small Oxygen Cylinder Post



Once the regulator is firmly attached and the pressure gauge is displaying the contents of the oxygen cylinder, the oxygen connection tubing and delivery device (usually a nasal cannula), can be attached to the flowmeter. Turn the flowmeter to the oxygen flow prescribed by your physician. You should be able to feel the oxygen flow coming out of the oxygen delivery device. You may now put on the oxygen delivery device.

Oxygen cylinders need to be changed before they are completely empty. This level is usually at 200 pounds per square inch (psi). Each size of oxygen cylinder contains a different quantity of oxygen. Your oxygen provider should provide you with a form that can provide estimates of oxygen flow duration. These forms take into consideration your oxygen flowrate and the pressure left in the compressed cylinder. When you are using your compressed cylinders away from your primary residence, make sure you review the "duration of flow" sheets so you can bring the appropriate amount of cylinders with you.

In order to make sure that you have enough oxygen for use, each compressed cylinder has a tag on it that designates whether the cylinder is full or empty. Once you have used an oxygen cylinder, rip off the tab that says full so it reads empty. This way you will not be confused when it is time to select a full oxygen cylinder.

To preserve oxygen, turn your oxygen cylinders off when not in use. Use your primary oxygen source when in your home.

When traveling, do not put oxygen cylinders in the trunk of your car or in any other enclosed space. Transport cylinders by securing them upright in an approved carrier in the back seat with the window open at least one inch.

Safety

The safe use of compressed oxygen cylinders requires it to be used as instructed, which includes the following safety precautions:

- Ensure that there is a functional smoke detector in the residence. Contact your local fire department to see what the legal requirements are for smoke detectors in the home.
- Ensure oxygen delivery tubing is routed and secured so that it does not become entangled and/or damaged.
- Ensure that oxygen is stored in well-ventilated places.
- Ensure that there are “No Smoking” signs displayed on all home entry doors.
- Ensure that oxygen delivery equipment is kept dust-free.
- Keep all flammable materials away from the oxygen source, especially oil, grease, solvents, creams, lotions, petroleum products, paper, fabric, aerosol containers, and alcohol. Oxygen is not flammable, but it will make a fire burn hotter and faster.
- Keep all devices that are electrically powered, or can produce sparks, at least 5 feet away from the oxygen delivery device.
- Never add, remove, or disable any feature, part, or function of your oxygen system.
- Never allow any untrained person or child to touch or manipulate your oxygen equipment.
- Never store compressed oxygen cylinders in the trunk of your car.
- Do not allow smoking or flames in the room where oxygen is being used.
- Do not cook with a gas stove when oxygen is in use.
- Do not use Nylon®, wool, or any synthetic material for clothing or bedding; cotton is the preferred material.
- Do not try to fix, repair, or lubricate the oxygen delivery system.
- Store oxygen cylinders in approved carts or holders or lying flat on the floor.

In order to ensure care and provide operator safety, make sure you follow these safety guidelines:

- Use nightlights to increase vision around areas of use.
- Wipe up any water or slippery floor spills.
- Remove tripping hazards (loose floorboards, uneven floors, throw rugs, extension cords, clutter, etc.)
- Install grab bars, use bath mats with suction cups, and use an elevated toilet seat to prevent falls.

Maintenance

Keep your oxygen equipment clean and dust-free by wiping down with a water dampened cloth. Only qualified repair technicians should diagnose, perform maintenance, or repair any part of your oxygen delivery system. Call your oxygen provider if your oxygen delivery system is not functioning properly.