

Oxygen Safety At Home

Oxygen can be used safely at home. These are the rules for oxygen safety.

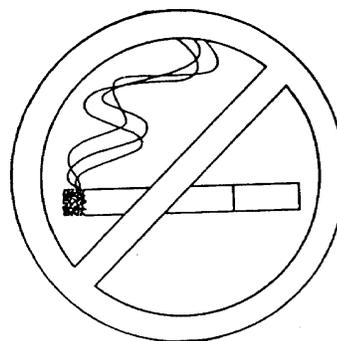
Oxygen therapy

- Oxygen is a drug. Too much or too little oxygen may be harmful.
- Use the amount ordered by your doctor. Do not change the amount of oxygen you are using without first checking with your doctor. If you feel you are not getting enough oxygen, talk to your doctor.

Fire safety

Oxygen itself does not burn. Oxygen can feed a spark and cause it to become a large fire in seconds. Follow these rules to prevent a fire:

- **No smoking**
 - ▶ Do not allow anyone to smoke in the room where oxygen is being used.
 - ▶ Your oxygen home care company will provide **No Smoking** signs to hang in your home.



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Learn more about your health care.

- **Avoid open flames**

- ▶ Do not use oxygen within 10 feet of open flames such as fireplaces, wood-burning stoves and gas stoves.



- **Using electrical equipment**

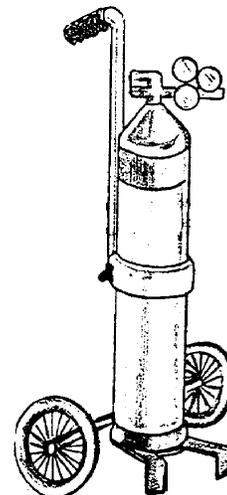
- ▶ Do not use equipment with frayed cords or electrical shorts. They could cause a spark.
- ▶ Avoid using electric razors and hair dryers while using oxygen. Battery operated (less than 10 volts) razors and hair dryers can be used.
- ▶ Do not use an appliance with a control box such as a heating pad. Control boxes may throw sparks.

- **Avoid static electricity**

- ▶ Avoid nylon or woolen clothing because it is more likely to cause static electricity.
- ▶ Use a humidifier in winter to add moisture to dry air in your home.

- **Proper storage and handling of oxygen**

- ▶ Store liquid and cylinder oxygen away from heat and direct sunlight.
- ▶ Secure cylinders with chain as arranged by your home care therapist. Place cylinders in a secure holder, in an upright position.
- ▶ Never apply any oily substance, such as petroleum based lip products, Vaseline, Blistex or Chapstick, to your nose, lips or the lower part of your face.



- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**