

PATIENT EDUCATION



Large Oxygen Cylinders



 **Medicor**[®]
HEALTHCARE

Breathe Easier.

Important Precautions

If your oxygen is being supplied from a cylinder or a tank, be sure to have it secured so it cannot be knocked over. A stand has been provided for this purpose. If you keep extra cylinders on hand, be certain they are also secured with a belt, chain, or rope. If you prefer, cylinders that are not in use may also be stored lying down. It is important to secure both empty and full cylinders. All cylinders should be kept away from radiators, heat ducts, stoves, or any other sources of heat. “NO SMOKING” signs should be prominently displayed in all areas in which oxygen is being used or stored. Review the other safety precautions in the general information on oxygen therapy that was provided with these instructions.

Turning On Oxygen

- Make sure that the flow adjustment knob is turned off completely by turning it fully counter-clockwise (finger tight only – do not force).
- Slowly turn the cylinder valve on completely (fully counter-clockwise). The pressure gauge registers the flow rate prescribed by your doctor. Note: When using a humidifier, it will begin to bubble when the oxygen is turned on if it has been properly filled with distilled water and all connections are tight.
- Attach the tubing from the cannula to the humidifier or the nut and nipple.
- Put on the cannula and adjust for comfort.

Turning Off Oxygen

- Turn cylinder valve fully clockwise. The pressure gauge and flow meter will slowly drop to zero as oxygen is purged from the regulator.
- When both gauges register zero, turn the flow adjustment knob off by turning it fully counter-clockwise (finger tight only – do not force).

Changing the Regulator

- Make sure the tank valve is off.
- If you are using a humidifier, remove it from the regulator.
- With a wrench, loosen the nut that attaches the regulator to the tank valve.
- Remove the regulator from the tank.
- Place the nut of the regulator onto the threaded part of the tank valve.
- Turn the nut clockwise to begin tightening the nut onto the threads. When finger tight, use the wrench to tighten the regulator completely.
- Slowly turn the cylinder valve on.
- If you hear a hissing sound, leaks have occurred. Turn off the valve and tighten it again. If you are unable to stop the leaks, call our office for assistance.

Determining When To Order More Oxygen

It is important to check the pressure gauge regularly to avoid running out of oxygen. Although our representative will do everything possible to assist you, he/she cannot monitor your oxygen supply as closely as you can. You, your caregiver, or a member of your family must assume this responsibility.

We have provided you with an Oxygen Cylinder Duration Guide that will help you determine how long your tank will last. Using this information, your pressure gauge reading will enable you to estimate your current oxygen supply and judge when to reorder oxygen. A full cylinder registers approximately 2000 pounds per square inch of compressed gas. Consequently, if your pressure gauge registers 1000 pounds, your cylinder is approximately 1/2 full. At 500 pounds, you have approximately 1/4 of a tank. **Example:** If you are using an “H” tank, and your prescribed flow rate is 2 liters per minute while your pressure gauge is reading 1000 pounds, you would have about a 28 hour supply of oxygen (one half of 56 hours).

You should always change tanks before the pressure gauge drops below 200 pounds. Below that pressure the flow meter gauge no longer reads accurately. The pressure should be watched carefully below 500 pounds.

IMPORTANT: THE CYLINDER VALVE MUST BE TURNED ON IN ORDER TO READ THE CYLINDER PRESSURE.

Always keep enough oxygen on hand to last long enough to meet your needs. If you need help deciding how much you will need, please call our office.



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