

PATIENT EDUCATION



# Portable Oxygen Cylinders



# Important Precautions

**If your oxygen is being supplied from a cylinder or 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 that they are stored lying down when they are not connected to your oxygen equipment. It is important to secure empty cylinders as well as full ones. All cylinders should be kept away from radiators, heat ducts, stoves, or any areas where oxygen is being used or stored. Review the other Safety Precautions in the general information on oxygen therapy that was provided with these instructions.**

## Attaching the Regulator to Small Cylinders

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- Remove the seal from the neck of the cylinder and save the washer inside. Some systems have a permanent insert. If this is the case, simply leave the insert in the tank valve.
- Place the new washer on the largest peg located inside the yoke of the regulator. If the previous washer is still in place, remove it before installing the new washer.
- Attach the regulator by slipping the yoke down over the neck of the cylinder and aligning the pegs inside the yoke with the holes on the stem of the cylinder.
- Tighten the “T” bolt firmly. If either the “T” bolt or washer is not secure, the cylinder will make a loud hissing sound when the valve is turned on indicating oxygen is escaping. There is no danger, but the “T” bolt must be tightened.

## Turning On Oxygen

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- Make sure that the flow adjustment knob is turned off completely by turning it fully counter-clockwise (finger tight only – do not force).
- Using the small-cylinder wrench or key, slowly turn the cylinder valve one full turn counter-clockwise. When this valve is opened, the pressure gauge will indicate the amount of oxygen left in the tank. A full tank will read approximately 2000 pounds.
- Turn the flow adjustment knob on (clockwise), until the flow meter gauge registers the flow rate prescribed by your doctor.
- Attach the tubing from your cannula to the nipple adapter on the regulator.
- Put on the cannula and adjust it for comfort.

## Turning Off Oxygen

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- Using the small-cylinder wrench or key, turn the cylinder valve 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).



## Removing the Regulator

- Turn off the oxygen as described.
- Loosen the “T” bolt enough to permit the pegs in the regulator yoke to be disengaged from the holes in the neck of the cylinder, and then lift off the regulator.

## Changing Cylinders and Ordering More Oxygen

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:** The most frequently used portable oxygen cylinder is the “E” tank. When full, it contains 650 liters of oxygen. If your prescribed flow rate is 2 liters per minute, and your pressure gauge is reading 1000 pounds, you would have slightly more than 2 1/2 hours supply of oxygen (one half of 5 1/4 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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