



Oxygen Safety

Home oxygen can provide relief and comfort, but safety guidelines must be observed.

Oxygen concentrators and tanks improve your level of oxygen. Oxygen can also be used to help when you are having trouble breathing.

Smoking while using oxygen is the most dangerous thing you can do. DO NOT allow smoking in the house or car where oxygen is being used or stored. Post “No Smoking” signs on door or window where oxygen is being used or stored. These should be clearly visible at the entrance to your home to alert visitors and rescue/fire services. Sparks and flames occurring in an area with increased oxygen can make materials such as clothing, hair and furniture burn faster and hotter. People are injured or killed yearly from smoking in the vicinity of oxygen and homes are damaged or destroyed. E-cigarettes & other smoking substances have also been associated with oxygen fires and are unsafe in the presence of oxygen.

Your physician has ordered an exact oxygen flow rate in liters per minute (lpm). Do not change the flow rate until you discuss with your hospice nurse. Avoid using more than 50 feet of oxygen extension tubing as it reduces the oxygen you receive. Monitor the environment for ease of mobility with oxygen tubing to avoid any trip hazards.

Use the following oxygen safety precautions:

- **DO NOT use any smoking materials in the home (cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, etc).**
- Maintain functional smoke detectors and test them regularly.
- Keep an ABC fire extinguisher in your home that is recommended for wood, oil and electrical fires.
- Develop a fire escape plan.
- Use your emergency oxygen tanks if you have a power outage. Notify HOC immediately at 891-7700.
- Keep track of your tank supply to avoid running out – notify your hospice nurse if you need new tanks.

Questions or concerns?
Call a hospice nurse at 513-891-7700.



HOC NAVIGATORS

Who to notify when starting oxygen therapy:

"Priority Service Listing" May Be Available During Emergency Events

1. Local Fire Department: _____
2. Utility Company: _____
Utility Companies have programs available for individuals on oxygen and other life support systems. It is still recommended to have back-up supply of oxygen available.
3. Phone Company: _____

Questions to ask: "Do you have a program to sustain life support during emergency power outages?"

Items that **SHOULD NOT** be used:

Examples of items that should not be used in the presence of oxygen or where oxygen is stored include:

- Sparking devices, like a lighter
- Gas stoves
- Open flames, like fireplaces or candles
- Firearms
- Aerosol cans, including hairspray
- Spray air fresheners
- Petroleum or paraffin products, including those in ointments or lotions
- Alcohol based products
- Electronic cigarette
- Electric blanket
- Electric razor
- Hair dryer
- Heating pad
- Any other flammable or spark-producing material

Storage and handling of oxygen:

- Store oxygen tanks upright in a designated rack.
- If transporting an oxygen cylinder in the car, it is recommended to not transport in the trunk. It is best to transport upright and secured.
- If the tank needs to be transported laying on the floor of the car, secure the cylinder so it does not roll around freely. Separating the tanks with blankets or luggage will help to keep secure.
- When transporting oxygen in a vehicle, it is recommended to open the windows slightly to allow for proper ventilation.
- Store the oxygen tanks at least 5 feet away from any heat or cold sources.
- Store oxygen cylinders in a well-ventilated area, which usually means to avoid storing in a closet, laundry room or basement.
- Move oxygen cylinders slowly and carefully as they are under high pressure.
- Place the oxygen concentrator where there is a 12–18 inch clearance so there is enough air circulation for the concentrator to work correctly.
- Turn your oxygen concentrator/tank off when not in use.
- **DO NOT** use an extension cord for your concentrator. A power strip with circuit breakers may be used as a last resort.
- **DO NOT** permit untrained persons to use or adjust oxygen equipment; keep all oxygen equipment out of reach of children.
- **DO NOT** use oil or grease substances on the oxygen equipment.
- **DO NOT** cover oxygen tubing with bedding or any other objects.
- **DO NOT** route oxygen tubing under carpet or furniture.

Questions or concerns?

Call a hospice nurse at 513-891-7700.



HOC NAVIGATORS