

# HOME OXYGEN SAFETY TIPS



Oxygen is a drug and is effective and safe **ONLY** when used as prescribed by your physician. Never change your oxygen liter flow without first consulting your physician.

## Fire Safety

- ✓ Oxygen is not flammable and will not explode. However, oxygen does support combustion. This means that oxygen makes things burn faster and ignite easier.
- ✓ Use and or store oxygen in a well-ventilated area because oxygen accumulates around the user and immediate surroundings.
- ✓ **NEVER** use or store oxygen in a confined space such as a cabinet or closet.
- ✓ **DO NOT** use petroleum-based ointments or lotions in or around your nose, such as Vaseline, Vicks, Chapstick, etc. Oxygen can react violently with these oily substances and can cause burns.
- ✓ Keep all oxygen equipment at least **15 feet from any type of open flame**. Take care to avoid open flames while using oxygen, including matches, fireplaces, barbecues, stoves, space heaters, candles, etc.
- ✓ **DO NOT SMOKE** within 15 feet of the oxygen set-up or an oxygen patient.
- ✓ Avoid using electrical appliances that produce sparks, such as electric heaters, electric razors and friction toys.
- ✓ Use of a smoke detector and fire extinguisher is recommended when using oxygen in the home.
- ✓ Plan an evacuation route for you and your family in the event of a fire.

## Oxygen Storage and Handling

- ✓ Oxygen tanks should always be stored in a stand or cart to prevent tipping and falling. Store extra, unsecured tanks by placing them flat on the floor. Do not allow tanks to stand or lean in an upright position while unsecured.
- ✓ **DO NOT** store oxygen systems in unventilated areas such as closets or cabinets.
- ✓ **DO NOT** store oxygen systems near heat or ignition sources.

- ✓ DO NOT store oxygen systems in the trunk of the car.
- ✓ While transporting oxygen in a vehicle, ensure containers are secure and positioned properly.
- ✓ Oxygen should be transported in the passenger compartment of a vehicle with the window open slightly (2-3 inches) to permit adequate ventilation.

-over-

### **Concentrator Safety**

- ✓ Concentrators are electrical devices that should only be plugged into a properly grounded or polarized outlet.
- ✓ DO NOT use extension cords.
- ✓ DO NOT use multi-outlet adaptors such as power strips.
- ✓ Avoid using power sources that create heat or sparks.
- ✓ Use a power supply or electrical circuit that meets or exceeds the amperage requirements of the concentrator.

### **Liquid Oxygen Safety**

- ✓ Avoid direct contact with liquid oxygen as it can cause severe burns due to its extremely cold temperature.
- ✓ Avoid touching any frosted or icy connectors of either the stationary reservoir or portable unit.
- ✓ Avoid contact with any stream of liquid oxygen while filling portable units.
- ✓ Keep the portable unit in an upright position. Do not lay the unit down or place on its side.

**SMOKING WHILE USING OXYGEN IS  
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!!**