

# Home Oxygen Safety

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## Tips for safe use of oxygen

Oxygen is safe. It works well when used as directed.

- Use the exact rate of oxygen your doctor tells you to use for each activity. Do **not** lower or raise the oxygen liter flow without asking your doctor.
- Do **not** use products with petroleum on your face (Vaseline, Vicks, ChapStick, A&D ointment). It can cause burns.
- Never use oil-, grease- or alcohol-based products on equipment.
- Post “No Smoking” signs near the oxygen.
- If there is a problem with the equipment, call M Health Fairview Home Medical Equipment. **Never try to repair equipment yourself.**

## Fire safety

Oxygen is **not** flammable (it will not catch on fire or explode), but it may make a fire bigger. Things start on fire more easily or burn faster near oxygen.

Follow these safety tips:

- Use oxygen in a room that gets plenty of air. Oxygen builds up around the user.
  - Do **not** use oxygen in a confined space or closet.
  - Do **not** drape clothing over your oxygen system.
- Do **not** smoke within 15 feet of an oxygen source.
- Keep at least 15 feet away from heat and flames (matches, candles, barbecue grills, fireplaces, furnaces, heaters, stoves).
- Avoid using items that create sparks (electric heater, razor, hair dryer and friction-powered toys).
- Have a working smoke detector and fire extinguisher in the home.
- Have an escape plan for you and your family in case there is a fire.

## Concentrator safety

This device removes nitrogen from the air. It delivers almost pure oxygen through a cannula or mask.

- Be sure your power supply or electrical circuit can support the amount of electricity (amps) needed to run your concentrator.
- Do **not** force the plug to fit into your outlet. The concentrator's plug may be grounded (with three prongs) or polarized (one prong slightly wider). Only plug it directly into the same type of wall outlet.
- Do **not** use extension cords.
- Do **not** use power strips or other multi-outlet adaptors.

## Storage

- Store in an open area (**not** in a closet, cabinet, trunk or other confined space), away from heat and flames.
- Place tanks in a stand or cart to prevent them from falling.
- Store extra tanks flat on the floor.

## Transporting oxygen

- Transport oxygen in the passenger compartment of a vehicle (**not** in the trunk).
- Lay tanks flat on the floor.

## Questions?

If you have questions about using, cleaning or caring for your equipment, please call:

***Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.***

M Health Fairview Home Medical Equipment  
651-632-9800

***After 4:30 p.m. or on the weekend***

For urgent needs, please call 952-924-8157.