

Oxygen Safety Precautions

Oxygen is very safe to use when the proper precautions are followed. Oxygen will NOT burn and will NOT explode. Oxygen WILL cause anything that is burning to burn faster and hotter.

Use the following safety rules to create a very safe environment when you use your home oxygen.

1. **NEVER** smoke with your oxygen equipment on and **NEVER** permit smoking in the same room your oxygen equipment is in.
2. Place "**OXYGEN IN USE/NO SMOKING**" signs at all entrances to your home and at the door to the room where the oxygen will be in use.
3. Store oxygen equipment and keep oxygen tubing at least five (5) feet from open flames, space heaters, large windows (with prolonged exposure to direct sunlight) or **any** heat source.
4. If you need to cook, follow these steps to keep the tubing away from the heat source:
 - a. Step 1 - Secure the cannula over your ears and behind your head instead of under your chin.
 - b. Step 2 - Secure the tubing to the side of your clothing at the waistline.
 - c. Step 3 - Use the rear burners of the stove when possible.
5. **NEVER** use grease or oil on any part of your oxygen. Keep oxygen equipment away from any flammable materials including grease, oil, Vaseline, hand lotions, aerosol sprays, and hair lubricants.
6. **DO NOT** store your oxygen concentrator or oxygen cylinders in an enclosed area, such as a closet. **NEVER** stand up or lean oxygen cylinders against a wall without being properly secured.
7. **DO NOT** store or transport oxygen cylinders in the trunk of a car.
8. **NEVER** use an electric hair dryer or oil-based face creams while wearing your oxygen. **DO NOT** use furniture polish, wax, or aerosol sprays to clean the surface of the oxygen concentrator. Wipe the surface with a damp cloth only.
9. Keep fire extinguishers charged and in your home. Keep working smoke detectors in your home and change the battery twice per year when you "spring forward" or "fall back" for Daylight Saving Time changes.

Annual Patient Responsibilities

Oxygen is a drug, and an annual physician visit and prescription are required.

1. Schedule an appointment with your oxygen physician to discuss on-going oxygen needs.
2. Obtain a renewal prescription to continue oxygen services and have it sent to MSC.
3. Let MSC know if the physician treating my oxygen needs changes.
4. Watch for a text or email message from MSC reminding me of what is needed annually.
5. If my prescription expires, I understand it may disrupt my oxygen services until I obtain a prescription.

If your need for oxygen services ends, please obtain a discontinuation order from your physician. Ask them to send this order to us; then we can schedule the pickup of the oxygen equipment. Because the oxygen equipment is provided to you based on a physician order, we need your physician to discontinue the oxygen.