Home Oxygen Safety Tips

Oxygen is a drug and is effective and safe ONLY when used as prescribed by your medical provider. NEVER change your oxygen liter flow without first consulting your medical provider.

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, closet or trunk.
- ✓ 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. (Products that are safe to use are water-based products such as KY Jelly)
- ✓ 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, barbeques, stoves, space heaters, candles, etc.
- ✓ DO NOT SMOKE OR ALLOW SMOKING IN YOUR HOME WHILE USING OXYGEN EQUIPMENT.
- ✓ Avoid using electrical appliances that produce sparks, such as electrical heaters, electrical razors, hair dryers, friction toys, remote toy cars, etc.
- ✓ Use of a smoke detector and fire extinguisher is highly recommended when using oxygen in the home.

Oxygen Storage & Handling

- ✓ Oxygen tanks should be stored in a stand or cart to prevent tipping and falling. Store extra, unsecured tanks by placing them flat on 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. NEVER drape clothing over oxygen systems.
- ✓ DO NOT store oxygen systems near heat or ignition sources.
- ✓ DO NOT store oxygen systems in the trunk of your car.
- ✓ While transporting oxygen in a vehicle, ensure containers are secured and positioned properly on the floor of your back seat.

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.