



Home Care Equipment Inc.

OXYGEN CYLINDER INSTRUCTION SHEET

Your doctor has ordered oxygen for you to use while at home. Use of oxygen will help to minimize the feeling of breathlessness during exercise or physical exertion.

The prescription states that you should use your oxygen _____ at _____ liters per minute by _____. Use oxygen only at the prescribed liter flow. Treat oxygen as you would other medications. REMEMBER, "More is not necessarily better."

OXYGEN USE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. REGULATOR:

It functions in two ways. First it displays on a dial the amount of oxygen inside the reservoir and secondly it reduces the pressure of oxygen as it passes through the regulator

2. FLOWMETER:

It acts as a gauge by which the flow of oxygen to you is regulated.

B. EQUIPMENT PREPARATION

1. Be sure that oxygen cylinder is secure on cart, away from heat, direct sunlight, open flames, smoking or combustible materials.
2. Turn cylinder handwheel or wrench key counter-clockwise (left) to open cylinder valve.
3. If needed, screw on humidifier (water bottle) attachment tightly to the regulator outlet.
4. Connect oxygen tubing securely to the humidifier outlet.
5. Set flow on the flow dial or flow tube to the prescribed liter flow. NOTE: Be sure to observe the flow tube straight so that the ball is centered with the proper flow indicator.
6. Adjust the oxygen delivery device on your nose (nasal cannula, mask, etc.) to breathe comfortably.

C. WHEN OXYGEN IS NOT IN USE

1. Turn cylinder handwheel or wrench key clockwise (right) until flow meter and pressure dial drop to zero and cylinder valve is off.
2. Check that cylinder is secure on cart, away from heat or direct sunlight.
3. Replace humidifier every 2 weeks.
4. Replace oxygen delivery equipment (i.e., nasal cannula, mask, etc.) at least at the end of each week, or sooner if dirty or contaminated with secretions.

D. TROUBLESHOOTING OXYGEN DELIVERY PROBLEMS

NO FLOW OXYGEN

1. Check that cylinder handwheel or key is opened fully.
2. Check that pressure is observed on regulator dial.
3. Check that flow dial is on and adjusted to proper flow setting.
4. Check that humidifier is tightly screwed to regulator.
5. Check that bubbles are observed in humidifier bottle.

TROUBLESHOOTING OXYGEN DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONT'D

6. Check that oxygen tubing is securely attached to humidifier outlet.
7. Check that oxygen tubing is not crimped or pinched off by heavy object: between furniture, under wheel, etc.
8. Check that oxygen tubing is free of water which may be blocking oxygen flow.

If steps (1) through (8) do not correct the problem, contact Home Care Equipment, Inc.

E. PRECAUTIONS

1. Be sure that oxygen cylinders are: on cart or otherwise secured if standing or lying down on their sides out of main home traffic path; in a well ventilated area; away from heat or direct sunlight, away from combustible materials such as in garages; away from open flames, electrical sparks, or cigarette smoking.
2. Do not store in closets, under beds, or in vehicles.
3. Use care if oxygen cylinder is moved. Avoid dropping, and avoid bumping the regulator.