

Safely Using Oxygen at Home

Using oxygen at home has many benefits. While your oxygen is a safe gas that will not burn or explode on its own, it helps support a fire or explosion. There are many things you must do to be sure you safely use oxygen.

PRECAUTIONS

Open Flame

Along with oxygen, heat and fuel are the things that support a fire. Heat sources near your system, such as open flames and smoking, are very dangerous. Do not smoke or be near an open flame in the same room with oxygen. Smoking anywhere near oxygen, even in the same room, is very dangerous.

Flammable Materials

Flammable materials catch on fire easily and are the fuel for a fire or explosion. Keep them away from your oxygen system. Never use any flammable products, including hand lotions, hairspray and other aerosols, within ten feet of your system.



Oxygen Tubing

The tubing of your system carries the oxygen you need. To be sure proper oxygen flows, be sure to keep the tubing from becoming kinked or pinched. Do not lay anything on the tubing.

Direct Heat

To avoid damage to the oxygen tubing, always keep it away from sources of high heat such as stove elements or heaters.



Location

It is important to put your oxygen system where you want it, but safety takes priority. Put your system in a safe location – NOT near radiators, hot air registers, or space heaters.



If You're Using Cylinders...

Large oxygen cylinders must be set into a steady base the right way to keep them from falling and causing injury. Place large cylinders in a safe place away from walkways. It is less likely that a person may trip against it and cause it to tip.

If You're Using a Concentrator...

An oxygen concentrator is an electric device (also refer to the section on electrical safety). It creates high oxygen concentrations by drawing in room air. Do not use extension cords with your concentrator.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Electrical safety is very important when you use an oxygen concentrator or other electric medical devices. The three most common electrical safety issues are ungrounded connectors, extension cords and adapters with many outlets and overload protection.

Ungrounded Connectors

Electrical medical equipment must have a grounded or three-prong connector or outlet. If your home is equipped with such outlets, you can plug the equipment directly into the wall. If your home has two-pronged outlets (many older homes do), you must have the right adapter put in place with the third wire properly grounded. This is for your safety as well as the safety of the equipment. Medical equipment requires properly grounded and wired outlets. Carle Medical Supply strongly recommends a qualified electrician check your outlets.



Extension Cords and Many Receptacles or Outlets

The more plugs you have connected to an outlet, the higher the risk for blowing a fuse or causing an electrical fire.

Overload Protection

Do not plug several electrical items into the same circuit where medical equipment is connected. You may wind up with many "blown" fuses or open circuit breakers. Older homes may use a fuse box rather than a modern circuit breaker. If a fuse blows,

never insert a fuse that exceeds or is over the current rating for that circuit. If you have any questions about your home's electrical circuits, call a qualified electrical contractor.

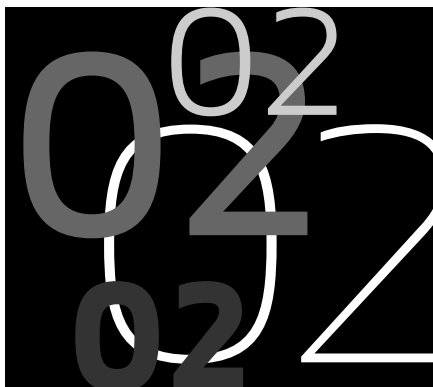
QUESTIONS?

Call the Carle Medical Supply nearest you.

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