

Do

Keep oxygen equipment and their user at least 15 feet away from sparking objects, naked flames, flammable materials and extreme heat, e.g. gas hob, gas fires.

Ensure you **turn off your oxygen supply when not in use**, even for short durations.

Allow at least 30 minutes after you have removed your oxygen before cooking, if this involves a naked flame. Oxygen may build up in clothing material and make it more flammable, so allow time for it to be dispersed.

Ensure the firebreak (provided on static concentrator machines only) remains in the tubing. This piece of white plastic should have the blue arrow pointing towards the patient. It helps stop a fire spreading up the tubing.

Do Not

Smoke or let anyone else smoke near you whilst using your oxygen equipment. Smoking is extremely dangerous when oxygen is being used. **This includes e-cigarettes** which may produce a spark in the vicinity of the oxygen.

Use face or hand creams that are oil-based. Only use water-based creams. If unsure seek advice from your pharmacist or doctor. Oxygen can react violently with these oily substances and can cause burns.

Use your oxygen equipment near an open flame such as gas stoves, fires, candles.

Use an electric razors, heaters, hair dryers, or any heat producing and electrical appliance that has a motor while using oxygen as they have been known to give off sparks.

Use bedding or clothes made of wool, nylon or synthetic fabrics, as these materials have the tendency to produce static electricity. The use of cotton material bedding and clothing will avoid sparks from static electricity.

Safe Storage of your Oxygen Cylinders

Do:

- Store oxygen cylinders away from sources of heat, e.g. direct sunlight that could cause an uncontrolled rise in the temperature of the contents, leading to over pressurisation and possible catastrophic failure of the cylinder.
- Store oxygen cylinders in a ventilated area, somewhere dry, clean and away from heat or ignition sources.
- Keep oxygen equipment at least 20 feet away from your stores of any combustible materials, such as paper.

Do not:

- Store cylinders in your garage due to the extremes of temperature.
- Store oxygen equipment with items such as paint, oils, grease or gasses

Scan the QR Code to read more online:



Oxygen Equipment

Your oxygen supplier will have provided a user instruction manual which you should read before operating your medical oxygen equipment.

Oxygen is not flammable, however it does support combustion. **This means that oxygen makes things burn and ignite more easily. For example:**

- **Substances which would not normally catch fire may actually do so.**
- **Substances which will normally burn or catch fire will do so more easily.**
- **Oxygen is denser than air and can saturate fabrics. Once they are oxygen rich, they are much more flammable.**

For these reasons, we want to remind you to take the following precautions when using and handling medical oxygen equipment.

What to do if there is a fire in your home

In the event of a fire:

Stay Calm:

- Follow your evacuation plan and get to a safe space.
- Only take your oxygen equipment with you if it does not hinder you.

Call 999:

- Ask for the fire and rescue service.
- Tell them that you are using medical oxygen.
- Provide an accurate location of your home.
- Wait for firefighters to arrive.

Get out. Stay out. Call 999.

If you feel unwell or require emergency oxygen, request an ambulance immediately by phoning 999.

You can book a Safe and Well Visit from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service by calling **0800 587 6679** or visiting rbfrs.co.uk/safeandwell.

For more information on home fire safety, visit rbfrs.co.uk/yoursafety

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Advice for

Oxygen Users