



COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER SAFETY FACT SHEET

Moving

The majority of incidents and injuries involving gas cylinders occur during handling or transportation. To help prevent incidents when moving cylinders follow these precautions:

- Ensure safety devices, such as caps or guards, are securely installed.
- Follow proper procedures and use the right personal protective / safety equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, heavy-duty gloves and protective footwear.
- Handle cylinders with care and avoid dropping or hitting them against anything.
- Never drag or roll cylinders, always move them with a suitable hand truck, even for short distances.
- Avoid lifting cylinders by their caps or guards or with magnetic slings.

Using

- Consult Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for safety information on the gases you are using.
- All cylinders being used must have their contents and precautionary labeling clearly marked on their exteriors.
- Always wear approved PPE including eye protection as recommended by the SDS.
- Open cylinder valves slowly with valve outlet away from you.
- Discharge compressed gases using devices, such as pressure regulators, approved for the gas being used.
- Close the main cylinder valve as soon as it is no longer necessary to have it open.

Storing

When storing compressed cylinders:

- Secure cylinders upright with a chain or strap above the middle of the cylinder at all times.
- Group cylinders by the type of gas and segregate by compatibility.
- Store cylinders in cool, dry, well ventilated areas, away from incompatible materials and ignition sources.
- Store oxygen gas cylinders at least 20 feet from flammable gas cylinders or separate using a noncombustible barrier at least 5 feet high having a fire-resistance rating of at least one-half hour.
- Ensure valves are completely closed and cylinder caps are in place.
- Use proper warning signs in areas where cylinders are stored.
- Store cylinders in a location free from vehicle traffic, excessive heat and electrical circuits.
- Store empty and full cylinders separately. Mark empty cylinders "empty" or "MT".
- **Note – Propane tanks/cylinders should not be used or stored in a WSU building basement. Consult with the Office of Risk Management on the proper use and storage of propane at (313) 577-3110.**



If you have further questions please contact OEHS
(313) 577 1200

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