



Medical Oxygen Safety Tips

Use of portable medical oxygen in the home has grown over the past decade. Medical oxygen adds a higher percentage of oxygen to the air a patient breathes. Fire needs oxygen to burn. If a fire should start in an oxygen-enriched area, the material burning will burn more quickly.

- There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. No one should smoke in a home where a patient is using oxygen.
- Candles, matches, woodstoves, and even sparking toys can be ignition sources and should not be used in a home where medical oxygen is in use.
- Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices.
- Body oil, hand lotion, and items containing oil and grease can easily ignite. Keep oil and grease away where oxygen is in use.
- Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near oxygen.
- Post “No Smoking” and “No Open Flames” signs in and outside the home to remind people not to smoke.

