

Safety with Transporting Oxygen Cylinders in Vehicles

You may become well enough to leave the hospital for a temporary leave, but still need to use your oxygen. Oxygen can make a flame or spark burn hotter and larger, which can cause fires. This document will provide tips to make sure you are transporting your oxygen cylinders safely in a vehicle.

Transporting Oxygen Cylinders Safely in Vehicles:

- Lay the cylinder down on the floor, making certain that the head (top) of the cylinder is facing into the car.
- Extra cylinders should be on the floor in the back with the head (top) of the cylinder facing into the car. Place pillows or blankets around the cylinders to prevent them from rolling around.
- Never store the oxygen cylinders in the trunk of the car.
- Do not leave oxygen in a car for long periods of time. If left in a car, open the car window about 5 cm to allow for air movement.
- If a spark occurs when starting the car, turn off the oxygen and open the window. Do not use oxygen inside a sparking car.

- Do **NOT** use any flame within 3 meters of the oxygen or the patient (no smoking/vaping, no matches or lighters).
- Never use any flammable material on or near the oxygen.
- Do not spray aerosols, use oil, grease, WD40 or any other flammable material on or near the equipment.
- Avoid excessive heat conditions such as sun, heaters etc. High temperatures may lead to the release of oxygen from your equipment.
- When you reach your destination remove the oxygen equipment from your vehicle.
- Do not put more than 10 cylinders in a vehicle at once.