

# Guidance on the use and storage of gas cylinders, gas portable appliances and other flammable substances

## Storing dangerous substances and items

You must not store or use, in or around your home in any garage or shared areas, any dangerous, flammable or explosive substance. We do not allow bottled gas such as Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and paraffin in buildings over two storeys high.

Keeping mopeds, motorbikes or equipment driven by a combustion engine inside your home or internal shared areas is not allowed.

It is illegal to store oxy acetylene gas bottles (used for welding) at your home or in any of our properties including garages and outbuildings.

## Mobile heaters

Mobile heaters should not be used in:

- garages as petrol vapour may be present;
- any room where flammable materials are stored;
- bathrooms or shower rooms; or,
- bedrooms, where there are flammable materials such as bed coverings, curtains and soft furnishings.

Always position your mobile heater so it faces towards the centre of the room position it away from chairs, walls and other soft furnishings.

Use a suitable fireguard to provide added protection. Make sure the mobile heater does not restrict your means of escape, should a fire occur.

**Never move any heating appliance while it is lit.**

## Barbecues, portable gas cookers and patio heaters

**Never** use any of these items indoors. Always make sure you have the cylinder and valve recommended in the instruction manual supplied with the product. Do not move appliances around when lit.

## Oxygen cylinders

If you need to use and store oxygen cylinders at your home because of a medical condition you must tell your local Service Access Point immediately and agree with them suitable storage arrangements

Avoid using any oil, WD40, grease or hand cream when handling oxygen equipment as these are known to contribute to ignition. If any valves are hard to use then the equipment must be returned to the supplier for repair

Most oxygen equipment provides a constant flow of gas to the patient, most of which escapes. This oxygen leaks out and if the patient is bedridden, the oxygen collects over bedding and is at serious risk of igniting. If the patient smokes striking a match could ignite the bedding causing a serious fire and injury.

The risk is reduced if 'demand delivery' is used; these only provide oxygen when the patient is breathing in.

Accidental damage to the regulator or cylinder can have serious results. If the cylinder falls and the stem of the regulator is damaged by impact, there is a risk of the regulator becoming a projectile.

Acceptable methods of storing oxygen cylinders include:

- cylinders stored upright in a cart; or
- securing them to a wall in an upright position.

This storage information applies to both full and near empty cylinders, as there is no way of telling for sure if a cylinder is empty or not.

## Gas cylinders - must not be stored in your home

Always:

- treat cylinders with care, make sure the valve is intact before connection;
- follow any safety advice and instruction supplied with the cylinder;
- change cylinders outdoors, switch off and keep away from any sources of ignition such as, naked lights, open fires, cigarettes;
- wear hand and eye protection if there is a possibility that LPG may escape from a cylinder in normal use as it can cause severe frost burns;
- lift cylinders with care, as the total weight can be double the content weight shown; and,
- make sure the cylinder cap is replaced when empty.

Never:

- subject a cylinder to heat as the pressure inside could build up to exceed the safe limit;
- store or use cylinders in cellars or below ground level. LPG is heavier than air and if they leak the gas will collect at low-level and become dangerous in the presence of a flame or spark;
- store cylinders indoors or in high rise apartments;
- put yourself at risk.

## Regulators

Make sure the correct regulator is fitted in the connection between cylinder and appliance. Follow the manufacturers instructions provided with the regulator. If a regulator shows signs of wear it should be replaced.

Do not adjust the regulator, as the pressure will have been set to control the pressure of supply. Never try to disconnect a regulator from the switch-on valve if the flame does not go out when the regulator switch is turned off, leave appliance alight and call your local retailer.

## Hoses and Tubing

Use flexible hose and tubing approved to BS3212 (type 2 is recommended for barbecue and Patio Heater applications). If a hose or tube shows signs of wear it should be replaced. Keep hose and tubing lengths as short as possible and make sure they are secured with proper hose clips. Keep hoses and tubing clear of 'hot spots' and inspect them regularly for signs of wear and cuts.

## Appliances

Only buy CE marked LPG appliances. This mark certifies that a product has met European Union consumer safety, health or environmental requirements.



Read the manufacturers instructions and labels provided with your appliance and keep them handy for future reference. Keep your appliance clean and service it regularly using competent (Gas Safe registered) installers. This will make sure the appliance is safe, and will burn efficiently and therefore save you money.

Never try to improvise or adjust your gas appliance in any way. Always ask your retailer for advice. If you allow someone who is not qualified to repair or service your appliance, it would not be safe to use.

## Emergency Advice

Never use a naked flame to search for a leak. If you suspect a leak, turn off the gas and make sure there is no source of ignition nearby.

Examine all pipes and connections. If the leak is not found, turn on the gas supply and brush over the connections with a liquid detergent – it will bubble where there is a leak. If in doubt contact the retailer

## Should a fire occur

**Immediately raise the alarm and call 999 and ask for the fire brigade.**

**Do not go near the cylinder if there is a fire.**

**Advise the Fire Brigade, on arrival, where all the cylinders are.**

