



Compressed gas cylinders

Compressed gas cylinders are used in a variety of tasks (e.g., welding, cutting, or heating metal). While the tasks and gases may vary, the hazards and safe operation and handling practices for gas cylinders are similar. By following the safe work practices listed below, you can help reduce the risk of injuring yourself or others while using and handling this equipment.

Safe work practices

- Ensure cylinders are properly marked to indicate their rated pressure and the type of gas they contain.
- Never rely on the colour of the cylinder for identification. Colour coding is not reliable because cylinder colours may vary with the supplier.
- Store cylinders upright and in a dry, well-ventilated area away from doors, stairs, elevator shafts, traffic, and heat sources. **Acetylene cylinders should always be kept upright.**
- Ensure cylinders are not secured to equipment that could become part of an electrical circuit.
- Post a “No Smoking” sign near the storage area.
- Keep full cylinders separated from empties.
- Always properly secure cylinders to keep them from falling during storage, transportation, and use.
- Use proper moving equipment like dollies or lifting cradles, or ask for assistance if equipment is not available. Gas cylinders can be very heavy, and they can be very dangerous if handled incorrectly.
- Never slide, drag, or drop cylinders.
- Remove the regulator and replace the cap, if applicable, before moving cylinders.
- Always keep the valve keys or wrenches with the cylinders so they can be closed quickly if needed.
- Never use a leaky cylinder. Notify your supervisor and the supplier.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions for safe operation.

