

## Oxygen Concentrators



An oxygen concentrator is a machine that separates room air into oxygen and nitrogen. The nitrogen is discarded, while the oxygen is stored, concentrated and delivered at 90% to 95% purity.

**Please Note:** The use of this device does *NOT* reduce the oxygen in the room air because of the small amount of oxygen required.

If you are using an oxygen concentrator, you may want to notify your power company and explain to them that you have life-sustaining equipment in your home. In the event of power failure in your area, they will then know to give priority to restoring power to your home over others in the area that are not using life-sustaining equipment.

### Turning On Oxygen

1. Plug the concentrator into a *properly grounded* electrical wall outlet. **DO NOT** use an extension cord. **DO NOT** plug into an outlet controlled by a wall switch or dimmer.
2. Attach the tubing from your cannula to the oxygen outlet.
3. Set the switch to the “**ON**” position.
4. Turn the flow adjustment knob until the flow meter registers the flow rate prescribed by your doctor. Your doctor prescribes a flow rate of \_\_\_\_\_ liters per minute.
5. Put on the cannula and adjust for comfort.

### Turning Off Oxygen

1. Remove the nasal cannula.
2. Set the concentrator power switch to the “**OFF**” position.
3. It is not necessary to turn the flow control “**OFF**” after it as been set properly. It should be checked, however, each time the concentrator is turned “**ON**” and periodically during use. The flow control may require minor adjustments from time to time.

### **If The Alarm Goes Off**

Your oxygen concentrator is equipped with an alarm to alert you in case of a power failure or an equipment malfunction. If the alarm goes off, **first** check to see that the power cord is still connected to the electrical wall outlet. Then, check other electrical appliances in the home to determine if there is a power failure, or if a fuse or circuit breaker has blown. Check the reset button on the front panel of the concentrator. If this button has been triggered (it will stick out) then push the button in to reset the machine.

Also check the tubing to make sure there are no kinks or obstructions to the flow of oxygen.

If there is a power failure, turn “**OFF**” the concentrator to stop the alarm. Then, turn “**ON**” your back-up cylinder system and connect your oxygen tubing to it. If your electrical service does not return within a reasonable length of time, notify our office so you can be provided additional oxygen for your back up system.

If you determine that there is no power failure and that the alarm indicates an equipment malfunction, turn “**OFF**” the concentrator. Then, turn “**ON**” your back-up cylinder system and connect your oxygen tubing to it. Notify our office of the malfunction immediately.

### **Cleaning And Maintenance**

Once a week you will need to clean the inlet air filter. This sponge-like filter should be removed and washed under running tap water. Be sure to shake out the excess water, then press or squeeze dry with a clean towel before replacing the filter. **The concentrator should NOT be used without this filter in place.** You should also wipe down the outside of the concentrator with a damp cloth periodically.

### **Additional Information**

Oxygen concentrators can be used with humidifier bottles. These bottles allow the oxygen to first pass over water, which provides the user with moisture. The humidifier bottle has a fill line that serves as a maximum level for the water. It is important not to overfill these bottles. If a bottle has too much water you run the risk of water creeping into the tubing.

The threading on these bottles is made of plastic. It is important to make sure these threads do not become cross-threaded when attaching the bottle. If the bottle is cross-threaded then the concentrator will not function properly and the alarm will sound. This accounts for the majority of concentrator related problems.