



# Safe Practices : Compressed Gas Cylinders

## What should I do before handling a compressed gas cylinder?

Before handling any compressed gas cylinder, locate the Safety Data Sheet, or SDS, for the gas you are using. The SDS contains vital information for handling each gas. Visually inspect the cylinder to ensure that it is in a safe condition. Cylinders should be stenciled or stamped and have a legible label permanently attached. Do not rely on the cylinders color for proper identification; if in doubt do not use the cylinder.

## How do I safely handle a compressed gas cylinder?

When handling compressed gas cylinders, regulators should be removed and valve protection caps should be secured in place before moving. Ensure that cylinders are transported so that they do not tip, fall or roll. Take precautions so that gas cylinders are not dropped or allowed to strike each other or other objects. Secure the cylinder to a specifically designed hand truck or cart in an upright position and never lift a cylinder by the valve or protective cap.

## How do I safely store a compressed gas cylinder?

Compressed gas cylinders should be stored in a cool, dry, well-ventilated, fire-resistant area where they will not be knocked over or damaged by falling objects. At no time should incompatible gasses be stored together. When cylinders are not in use, the cylinder valve should be closed and the valve protection cap should be in place. Gas cylinders should be properly secured at all times to prevent tipping, falling or rolling. They can be secured upright with straps or chains connected to a wall bracket or other fixed surfaces, or by using a cylinder stand.

## How do I safely use a compressed gas cylinder?

When gas cylinders are in use, inspect the pressure regulator for damage and ensure there are no leaks. For cylinders containing flammable or combustible gases, use an approved flammable gas detector, or soapy water solution to detect leaks. Pressure test systems that carry toxic or corrosive gases with an inert gas before operating. After you complete the tests, place a tag on the regulator with your name and test date. Remember to properly label all cylinders when in use and when empty.

## Where can I find more information?

[OSHA Compressed Gas Cylinders](#)

[OSHA Compressed Gas and Equipment](#)