

NORTHCOTE POTTERY SUPPLIES
TECHNICAL TIPS AND PRODUCT INFORMATION #35

CYLINDER SAFETY

STORAGE OF CYLINDERS

All cylinders should be considered and treated as full, regardless of their content.

- Keep cylinders away from artificial heat sources (eg. flames or heaters).
- Do not store cylinders near combustible materials or flammable liquids.
- Keep all flammable gases away from sources of ignition.
- Keep cylinders in well drained areas, out of water pools or ponds.
- The storage area should be kept well ventilated and clean at all times. Ideally, do not store cylinders in confined spaces.
- Avoid below ground storage where possible. Where impractical, consider the enclosed space risks.
- There should be good access to the storage area for delivery vehicles. The ground surface should be reasonably level and firm (preferably concrete).
- Storage area should be designed to prevent unauthorised entry, to protect untrained people from hazards and guard cylinders from theft.
- Different types of gases must be stored separately, in accordance with State Dangerous Goods legislation. Also refer to AS4332 (The Storage and Handling of Gases in Cylinders).
- Stores must clearly show signage in accordance with state Dangerous Goods regulations. This includes Class Diamonds; HAZCHEM; no smoking and naked flame warning signs.
- Full and empty cylinders should be kept separate.
- Toxic and corrosive gases should be stored separately from all other gases.
- Liquefied flammable cylinders must be stored upright on a firm, level floor (ideally concrete). This is also preferable for most other gas cylinders.
- Store cylinders away from heavy traffic and emergency exits.
- Rotate stocks of full cylinders, and use cylinders on a 'first in, first out' basis.
- Never repaint or obscure cylinder labels, even if cylinder is rusty, dirty or damaged. This can result in unsafe situations.
- Never apply any unauthorised labels or markings to cylinders, unless advised by BOC to identify faulty cylinders.
- Avoid storing cylinders below 0°C. Some mixtures may separate below this point.
- Regularly check for leaks and faults.
- Keep oil and grease away from cylinders and valves.
- Never use force when opening or closing valves.

HANDLING

When handling gas cylinders, and in line with current manual handling regulations, it is advisable that the following precautions are followed:

- Larger cylinders are heavy. Manual handling risk assessments and training should be undertaken.
- Safety shoes and gloves should be worn when handling cylinders.
- Cylinders should be handled with care and not knocked violently or allowed to fall.
- Cylinders should be moved with the appropriate size and type of trolley.
- Cylinder valves must be closed when moving cylinders and equipment should be detached.
- Only people trained in cylinder manual handling should move cylinders over short distance.
- Over longer distances, use appropriate trolleys or pallets, and firmly secure cylinders into them.
- Never roll cylinders along the ground as this may cause the valve to open accidentally. It may also damage the cylinder, label and paintwork.

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