

Guidelines

Storage & Handling

Please Note:

Hobbyweld gas cylinders weigh from around 11kg when empty and anywhere up to 21kg when filled. The gas inside a Hobbyweld cylinder is stored under pressure and if no precaution is taken to store or handle gas cylinders safely, damage could be caused by discharge or rupture. The information below is given as guidance to avoid potential damage.

Guidance for storing gas cylinders

- Store cylinders in a well-ventilated covered area, preferably outside on a level, well-drained surface. If this is not reasonably practicable, store in an adequately ventilated building or part of a building specifically reserved for this purpose
- Full and empty cylinders should be stored separately
- Cylinder stocks should be rotated so that the oldest cylinders are used first
- Cylinders should be stored vertically and securely fastened to prevent them from falling over
- Segregate cylinder by properties of gas
 - Flammable
 - Oxidising
 - Inert etc.
- Ensure that gas cylinder valves are kept shut on empty cylinders
- Avoid storing gas cylinders so that they stand or lie in water - **Oxygen**

MUST be stored away from oil or grease

- Protect gas cylinders from external heat sources that may adversely affect their mechanical integrity
- Gas cylinders containing flammable gas should not be stored in part of a building used for other purposes
- Do not store other products in a cylinder store, in particular flammable materials such as fuel, oil, paint or corrosive liquids
- Gas cylinders must be clearly marked to show what they contain and the hazards associated with their contents
- Store cylinders where they are not vulnerable to hazards caused by impact from vehicles such as fork-lift trucks
- Do not store LPG cylinders within three metres of other gas cylinders - The use of a firewall reduces the distance to 1.5 meters

There are specific requirements for certain products. Storage of cryogenic, liquefied (e.g. Propane) and heavier than air compressed gases should be sited with due regard to the dangers of gases collecting in low-lying areas such as drains, basements and ducts.

It is advisable to label your storage area with relevant hazard labels and colour code chart.

Guidance for handling gas cylinders

- When required, wear suitable safety shoes and other personal protective equipment when handling gas cylinders
- Carry cylinders close to your body to reduce stress on your back
- Gas cylinders should not be raised or lowered on the forks of lift trucks unless precautions are taken to prevent them from falling
- It is advisable to use a trolley if moving several cylinders to reduce risk of injury
- Do not drop, roll or drag gas cylinders
- Do not attempt to lift cylinders if they are located in a position where you have to lean over or stretch to carry them, this can cause back strain
- Use the correct techniques for lifting heavy objects
- Ensure that the valve is protected by a shroud that has been designed to withstand impact if the cylinder is dropped
- Fit suitable protective caps and covers to cylinders, when necessary, before transporting. Caps and covers help prevent moisture and dirt from gathering in the valve of the cylinder, in addition to providing protection during transport.

Guidance for use of gas cylinders

- Use gas cylinders in a vertical position, unless specifically designed to be used otherwise
- Always double check that the gas is the right one for the intended use
- Before connecting a gas cylinder to equipment, make sure that the regulator and pipework are suitable for the type of gas and pressure being used
- Disconnect regulators and hoses from cylinders whenever practicable
- Do not use gas cylinders for anything other than the transport and storage of gas

Disclaimer of Liability: Whilst proper care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no Liability for injury or damage resulting from its use can be accepted. Safety is your responsibility.

resources: HSE.co.uk - Health and Safety Executive 15/03/2013

- Only use cylinders filled by a reputable gas company who fills and tests cylinders regularly in accordance to regulations
- Only ever return empty gas cylinders to the supplier from which they were purchased
- Never attempt to fill a Hobbyweld cylinder from another gas cylinder