



# General Compressed Gas Safety

West Virginia University  
Environmental Health and Safety



## Safe Compressed Gas Practices

- Never rely on the cylinder color to identify the compressed gas. Read the cylinder label. Return unidentified cylinders to the vendor.
- All compressed gas cylinders must remain upright.
- Leave protective caps on cylinders until the compressed gas is used.
- All compressed gas cylinders must be restrained with chains, brackets, or straps positioned across at least the upper third portion of cylinders and preferably, also across the base of cylinders.
- Use a regulator that is compatible with the type of compressed gas being used.
- Never store oxygen cylinders near highly combustible materials or flammable gases.
- Do not store compressed gas cylinders in unventilated enclosures such as cabinets.
- Never use compressed gas cylinders as rollers or supports, even if the cylinder is empty.
- Do not place compressed gas cylinders on soil or unimproved surfaces.
- Valves of empty compressed gas cylinder shall be closed and empty cylinders shall be marked as empty.
- Remove regulators and replace protective caps before moving compressed gas cylinders.
- Never roll or walk a compressed gas cylinder. When moving compressed gas cylinders, use a hand truck.
- Close compressed gas cylinder valves, bleed regulators and lines, and close regulators when finished working with the compressed gas.

