



Compressed gas cylinders are common in research settings. While some gases, like compressed air, are inert and mainly pose physical hazards, others have associated hazards such as flammability and toxicity. Regardless of the type, all compressed gases present physical hazards. For more information, please scan the QR code.

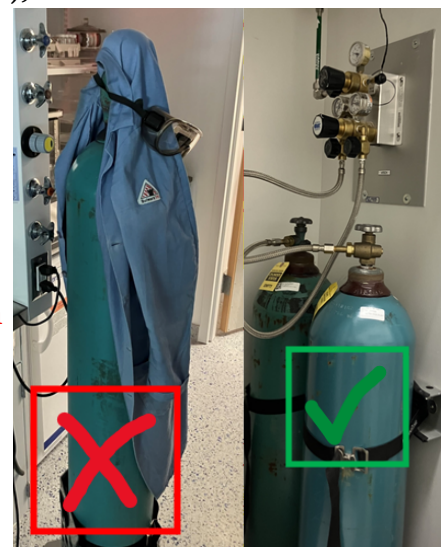
Prior to Receiving or Handling a Compressed Gas Cylinder...

All users **must** complete the Compressed Gas Training course, TC5450 on RASCAL in conjunction with hands-on training from your PI or other experienced laboratory staff. Laboratories must purchase noncombustible straps, chains, or base stands. Acquire appropriate tools, including the correct regulator and an 8.5-inch wrench. For flammable gases use a non-sparking wrench. Toxic and flammable gases may require engineering controls such as gas cabinets, monitoring equipment (i.e. leak detectors), automatic shut-offs or flash arrestors.

During Use

Regular system maintenance and safety checks are crucial for ensuring both safety and optimal performance.

- Securely fasten gases with a strap at the upper third of the cylinder or use a base stand.
 - **Unsecured cylinders are a common - but preventable - FDNY Violation**
- Do not use Teflon tape on regulator-to-valve connections.
- Monitor regulator gauges for issues like increasing tank pressure or low outlet pressure and check lines for leaks.
- Use the soapy water method to check for leaks on your hoses and connections.
- Close the regulator when not in use; remove the regulator then cap the cylinder if unused for long periods.



DO NOT use the cylinder and/or regulator as a coat rack, holiday decorations, or anything other than its intended use.

Once the cylinder is empty or unwanted return cylinders to their supplier.

Fun FAQ!

The color of a gas cylinder is **NOT** an indication of the contents within! Ensure that cylinders are clearly identified, and do not accept or use containers whose content labels are not legible.

To ensure your safety when working with compressed gas, remember to use them exclusively for their intended applications to avoid unintended consequences. It is crucial to verify that all components are compatible with the specific gas in use, so please consult EH&S for guidance on the appropriate safety measures.

Have more questions? Reach out to EH&S at Labsafety@columbia.edu or give us a call

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QR Code: Columbia University Compressed Gas Safety Website.

