

Seattle Permits

—part of a multi-departmental series on City services & permitting

Liquid Oxygen in Home Healthcare

May 2015

Section 6306 of the Seattle Fire Code includes specific safety precautions that must be adhered to by people selling, storing and using liquid oxygen in a home care setting.

Information and Instructions Provided

The seller will provide the user with the following information:

- Manufacturer's instructions for safe storage and use of the containers.
- The requirement to locate containers away from ignition sources, exits, electrical hazards and high temperature devices.
- The requirement to restrain containers to prevent falling.
- Requirements for handling containers.
- Safeguards for refilling containers.
- Signage requirements.

Home Care Containers

Liquid oxygen containers shall not exceed individual capacity of 15.8 gallons (60 L) in residential, hospitals, hospice care centers, nursing homes and adult care homes. Liquid oxygen ambulatory containers are also allowed.

The maximum aggregate quantity of liquid oxygen allowed in storage and in use in each dwelling shall be 31.6 total gallons.

Storage

Containers should be stored, used and operated in

accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and labeling.

Containers shall not be used near open flames and high-temperatures.

Containers shall not be stored in areas where:

- They can be overturned due to the operation of a door.
- They are in the direct path of exits.
- They are subject to falling objects.
- They can become part of an electrical circuit.
- Open flames or high-temperature devices can cause a hazard.

Signage

Smoking shall be prohibited in rooms or areas where liquid oxygen is in use. Warning signs shall be posted, stating "OXYGEN—NO SMOKING" in each room, area or home where liquid oxygen is used, stored or filled. Each dwelling or sleeping unit shall have an approved sign indicating that the unit contains liquid oxygen home care containers.

Restraining Devices

Liquid oxygen home care containers shall be restrained while in storage or use to prevent falling by contact, vibration or seismic activity.

Containers shall be restrained by one of the following methods:

- Restraining containers to a fixed object with one or more restraints.

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- Restraining containers within a framework, stand or assembly designed to secure the container.
- Restraining containers by locating a container against two points of contact such as the walls of a corner of a room or a wall and a secure furnishing or object, such as a desk.

Container Handling

Containers shall be handled by use of a cart or hand truck designed for such use. Liquid oxygen home care containers equipped with roller bases may also be used. Liquid oxygen ambulatory containers are allowed to be hand carried.

Filling of Containers

Liquid oxygen home care containers and ambulatory containers shall be filled outdoors. Ambulatory containers may be filled indoors if the supply container is specifically designed for filling ambulatory containers and written instructions are provided by the container manufacturer.

Safety Information

Additional safety information and best practices can be found in the Home Oxygen Safety factsheet online at: www.seattle.gov/fire/safety-and-community/home-fire-safety.