

GUIDE TO COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER SAFETY

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE WORKING WITH COMPRESSED GASES

Compressed gas cylinders (or CGCs). We've seen them around campus, strapped to walls, benches and maybe even hooked to gas lines or regulators. They come in a variety of colors from rushing red to glaring green. Have you ever stopped to wonder if you were safely handling or storing that cylinder? Maybe the cap is jammed and you wonder if it's safe to just pry it off? (Hint: Never force a cap off of a cylinder).



When working with compressed gas cylinders, lab members should be adequately trained on the proper use, handling, storage and disposal. Although the actual container may look harmless, keep in mind that **compressed gas cylinders pose mechanical, physical, inhalation, and/or other health hazards if used carelessly.**

EHS has prepared this guide for safely handling and storing compressed gas cylinders.

1. **Secure it!** Empty, full, or partially filled cylinders to a sturdy upright fixture (i.e. bench, wall) with a chain, strap, or floor clamp.
2. **Cap it!** Valve protection caps must be securely in place whenever the CGC is not attached to a regulator, even if empty.
3. **Big and Small!** All cylinders regardless of size must be secured. Appropriate mounting devices may be ordered online.
4. **Segregate!** CGCs connected to regulators must be secured with a separate mounting device, chain, or strap from unconnected cylinders.
5. **Move it!** Only transport cylinders using an appropriate, safe method such as a cylinder cart. NEVER roll a cylinder, carry, or transport a cylinder in a horizontal position.
6. **Don't break it!** Contact your vendor if the cap is jammed. Never attempt to use a wrench or any other device to pry off a cap.
7. **Get help!** Contact Operations and Maintenance at 410-706-7570 for a quote for the bracket and installation. Do not install yourself.
8. **Replace and Return!** Contact the vendor for collection of compressed gas cylinders, especially when vacating a lab.
9. **Be Safe!** Use appropriate PPE, such as lab coats, gloves, face shields and safety glasses, when working with compressed gases.
10. When in doubt, **Reach out!** Contact EHS at 410-706-7055 for safety concerns or questions.