

**Also refer to AS 4332 titled:  
The Storage and Handling  
of Gases in Cylinders.**

- Stores must be signposted in accordance with respective state Dangerous Goods regulations.
- Full and empty cylinders should be kept separate.
- Store cylinders away from heavy traffic and emergency exits.
- Rotate stock of full cylinders, and use cylinders on a 'first in, first out' basis.
- Stores should provide sufficient protection to keep cylinder temperatures in the range of 0°C to 45°C. This will ensure that the gas cylinders can be handled safely as this range is well within the specified design range of Australian and Overseas standards.

**PUREGAS**

# Storing your gas cylinder safely.

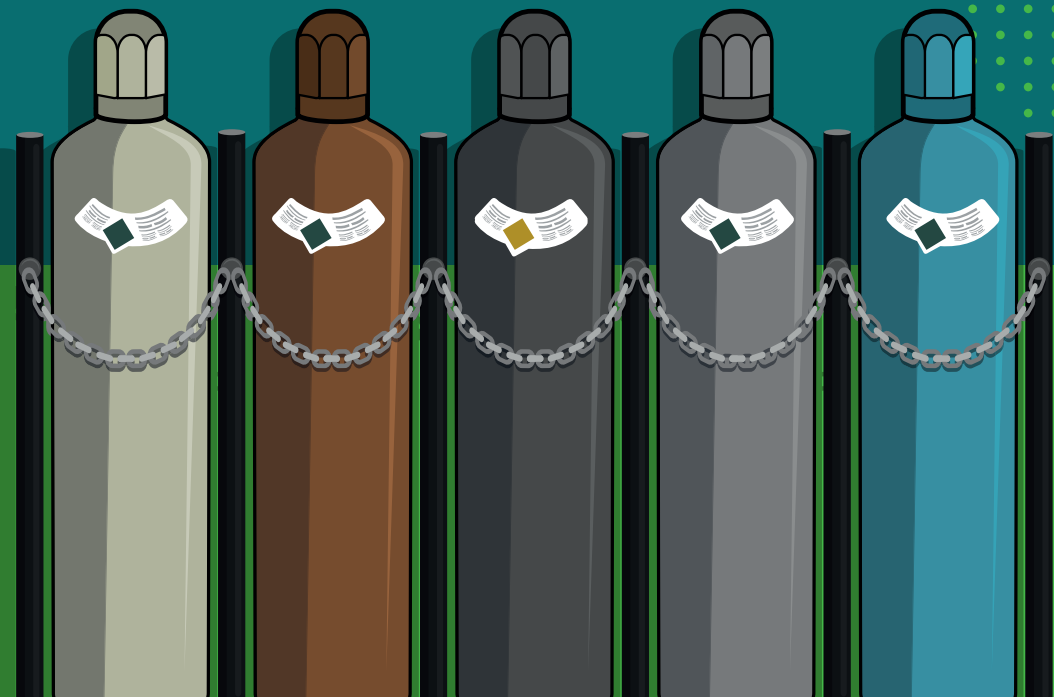
**PUREGAS**

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## Storage Locations.

- Small quantities of cylinders may be stored in a variety of locations in accordance with the Dangerous Goods Act and local government regulations. Please make sure to always check your local regulations. Some general guidelines are given in this document.
- Larger quantities of cylinders should be kept in a secure ventilated purpose-designed store or storage area, following the same principles.

## Ideal Storage.

Full or empty compressed gas cylinders should be stored:

- In a well ventilated area,
- Preferably in the open,
- With protection from the elements and if possible direct sunlight.

Most cylinders are made from steel so the bases are susceptible to corrosion if the floor of the storage area is not dry/well drained.

Storage areas need to be low risk with regards to fire and not near ignition sources. Store cylinders standing vertically and restrain them.

Cylinders must always be secured or restrained when they are free standing. This will prevent them from falling should they be accidentally bumped or knocked.

Avoid uneven, sloping, slippery or unstable areas and in particular "shaley" or loose surfaces when 'walking' cylinders (i.e. by rotating them on the vertical axis by holding and spinning them with one hand on the cylinder valve protective cap and the other hand on the barrel of the cylinder) as unrestrained cylinders are a potential hazard.

Whenever possible use a cylinder trolley for transporting cylinders that are higher than one's waist.

## Emergency Planning.

Free and clear access to cylinder storage areas is essential. Staff or workers storing or using gas cylinders must be familiar with the hazards and emergency procedures.

Store layouts and emergency procedures need to be in place to cater for potential incidents.

Ideally, cylinders should be stored in dedicated cylinder-only areas. Do not store any other products in a cylinder store, e.g. flammable liquids such as petrol, oil, paint, paint thinners or corrosive liquids.

## Gas Cylinder Rotation.

Simple but often not followed!

- **First in, first out** • **Ensure adequate turn around of stock** • **Return empty cylinders ASAP to PUREGAS**

Wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when handling gas cylinders. Namely suitable:



SAFETY SHOES



SAFETY GLASSES



EAR PLUGS

Safety signs highlighting the need for PPE will reinforce this and remind personnel.

**NB:** Loose clothing and long hair can be a trap! Staff need to be aware of this and take appropriate precautions and zip up, tuck loose clothing in and wear hair bands.

## Storage and Segregation of Cylinders.

### GOOD HOUSEKEEPING AND ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL

- Oxygen stored in a compound needs to be stored away from other fuel gas cylinders such as Acetylene and LPG (at least 3 metres away).
- Full gas cylinders must be stored separately from the empty cylinders. Note that the coloured plastic cap fitted to the cylinder valve outlet is a visual indication showing the cylinder is full.
- Cylinders containing different gases (whether full or empty) must be grouped separately.

Where security is an issue, there are a wide variety of Gas Cylinder Storage Systems available which satisfy the cylinder storage requirements of AS 4332 (The storage and handling of gases in Cylinders). Contact PUREGAS on 1300 733 097 for details.

## Storing your Cylinders Safely.

Always give cylinders the benefit of the doubt! Assume they are full or partially full until proven otherwise!

- Keep cylinders away from heat sources (e.g. flames or heaters).
- DO NOT store cylinders near combustible materials, flammable liquids or incompatible materials.
- Keep flammable gases away from sources of ignition.
- Store cylinders in well drained areas where water does not pool.
- The storage area needs to be well ventilated and kept clean at all times.
- DO NOT store gas cylinders in confined spaces and particularly below-ground storage rooms if at all possible.
- Where impractical, atmospheric monitoring or other risk control measures need to be considered.
- Good clear access for delivery vehicles is essential. The road base and its surface should be reasonably firm - preferably concrete.
- The storage area needs to be secure to prevent access by unauthorised or untrained people and also to prevent theft.
- Different types of gases must be stored separately and in accordance with relevant Dangerous Goods legislation.

