

Dispense gas can be hazardous if stored or used in the wrong way. Gas released from faulty or leaking cylinders or equipment can create a hazardous atmosphere. In an enclosed space even a small increase in carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels can lead to impaired judgement, but larger leaks of carbon dioxide and/or nitrogen (N_2) may reduce the amount of oxygen available, which can be fatal. Always carry out a risk assessment to determine if where you store your gas cylinder is a confined space. Ensure safe systems are in place to protect yourself and others who might enter that space.



DO	Store and use cylinders in a well ventilated area wherever possible.
DO	Install gas detection where required, including all areas where gas cylinders are stored and used.
DO	Prepare a plan of action if the alarm activates and ask yourself “what should I do if the alarm sounds?”, post signs informing people what it means and the action to take.
DO	Ventilate the space following a gas release.
DO NOT	Enter the area if the gas detection alarm is sounding.
DO NOT	Immediately enter the area to rescue someone who has collapsed. Call the emergency services.
DO NOT	Tamper with the alarm(s).

Ensure that all of your gas equipment is correctly installed and regularly check for leaks, especially after changing a cylinder. Know what gases you have and how to work with them safely. Understand the correct way to changeover a gas cylinder.



DO	Tell somebody that you're entering the location of a gas cylinder.
DO	Understand the correct cylinder changeover procedure.
DO	Leak test all connections with leak test solution when you change drinks dispense cylinders.
DO	Inspect connections for damage, undertake regular maintenance on all drink dispense systems and regularly change the 'O' ring seals.
DO NOT	Use damaged or faulty equipment. Replace with a new unit.
DO NOT	Try to repair leaks.
DO NOT	Enter the area without telling another person.

'Cheap' Gas Cylinders Can Prove Costly

Rogue traders are stealing cylinders and filling them with non-food grade gases. These cylinders are cheaper than those supplied by reputable suppliers. The cylinders are not correctly checked and tested and could explode if they're corroded inside.



DO Buy your drinks dispense gases from a reputable supplier.

DO Check cylinders to ensure they are correctly labelled.

DO Check that the cylinder is 'in test' as indicated by a complete coloured test date ring.

DO NOT Buy drinks dispense cylinders that are incorrectly labelled.

DO NOT Buy cylinders with their identity markings ground off.

DO NOT Buy dispense gas in cylinders designed for other gases, e.g. fire extinguishers.

- Using poor quality gas can spoil the taste of your drink - your beer deserves better!
- One cylinder of bad dispense gas can ruin up to 10 kegs of beer.
- If you're a business, you may lose customers through poor beer quality. You may also be at risk of prosecution for being in breach of several laws. e.g. Health and Safety at Work, Food Regulations and Carriage of Dangerous Goods *CDG) Regulations.

**Don't Settle For Less,
Your Drinks Deserve The Best!**

Safe Handling of Cylinders

Hobbybrew cylinders weigh around 20kg when full, so care should be taken when lifting and moving them to avoid risk of back injury. The ergonomic valve guard is designed for carrying the cylinder safely, but if you're moving the gas cylinder over a long distance it is recommended you use a cylinder trolley.



DO Ensure that cylinders remain upright and secured by using restraints, ratchet straps or chains



DO NOT Allow cylinders to be free-standing.

DO NOT Try to "catch" a falling cylinder.

Personal Protective Equipment



DO Protect your hands.



DO Protect your eyes.



DO Protect your feet.



Gas Can Leak In The Vehicle

- Leaks of gas in an enclosed vehicle are dangerous and can cause asphyxiation.
- Leaks can occur from cylinder valves leaking, or being knocked open.



Liquefied Gases Have Extra Hazards

- Liquefied gases (e.g. Carbon Dioxide) leaking from relief valves or toppled containers quickly evaporate creating a lot of gas.



Cylinders Can Be Heavy And Difficult To Handle

- Hobbybrew cylinders weigh around 20kg when full.
- During loading or unloading, injuries can occur from falling cylinders and from incorrect manual handling.
- Additional hazards from overloading the vehicle or unbalanced loading are poor handling and reduced vehicle braking.



Cylinders Can Move In The Vehicle

- Cylinders can cause injury and damage if they can move while the vehicle is cornering or braking.
- Any unrestrained cylinder is a hazard.
- Cylinders should be secured to prevent movement in your vehicle and not left to “roll around” in the boot, this can cause a valve to be knocked and gas to escape the cylinder.



Gas Hazards

- Labels show the hazards from the gas and are the only way to positively identify the contents of a cylinder or container.

If you are transporting cylinders “at work” check how the Dangerous Goods Transport Regulations (ADR) apply to you.

If you are transporting cylinders only for domestic use by a private individual the regulations do not apply, but you have a “duty of care” to transport gases safely.

For product specific information on transporting gases, see EIGA publication;
SL 01 – Dangers of Asphyxiation



Prevent Gas Leaks

- When loading the vehicle ensure the valve is closed and there is no leak of gas.
- Do not rely on regulators or other equipment to shut off the gas – always use the cylinder valve.
- Ensure the valve protection guard is in place.



Provide Good Ventilation

- Use a well ventilated vehicle – ideally an open or flatbed truck, or a vehicle with an area sealed from the driver's compartment and vented to the outside.
- If using a passenger car or van, turn on the fans and keep windows partly open to provide good ventilation.
- Never leave cylinders in an unventilated vehicle.



Ensure All Cylinders Are Well Secured

- Ensure cylinders are evenly loaded and secured enough to prevent movement during cornering, acceleration and emergency braking.
- Ensure the vehicle is not overloaded.
- Cylinders should be secured in an upright vertical position where possible.



Loading And Unloading

- Use safety shoes, gloves and eye protection to help prevent injury.
- Unload the vehicle as soon as possible. Never store gases in an unventilated vehicle.
- Read the label to understand the hazards of the gases you are handling.



Emergency Actions For Leaking Gas

- Stop the vehicle as soon as possible, turn off the engine and get out.
- Leave your doors open as you exit the vehicle, to let the gas escape.
- Keep away from the vehicle and try to keep members of the public away.
- Leave the gas to safely vent into the atmosphere.
- If you suspect a leak in a parked vehicle, do not get in it.