

# Broadman Limited Guidance on the Safe Storage and Handling of Gas Cylinders

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Gas cylinders are heavy, they are also filled with gas compressed under very high pressure. Should a cylinder suffer damage through mishandling and discharge its contents or worse rupture the resulting damage is likely to be extensive.

At all times cylinders must be handled and stored in accordance with the '[Manual Handling Regulations 1992](#)' and any other health and safety guidelines.

## A guide to manual handling procedures

- Always** Keep the quantity of cylinders you have on stock to a minimum.
- Always** Use cylinders that are in good condition and maintained.
- Always** Return cylinders to the Supplier / Owner of the cylinder
- Always** Have available spare Regulator / Connector washers
  
- NEVER** Fill one cylinder from another.
- NEVER** Drop, Throw or mishandle cylinders.
- NEVER** Use cylinders for anything other than storing and delivering gas.
- NEVER** Oil or lubricate cylinder valves.

## Cylinders within a building.

- Always** Check regularly that the room / space where the cylinders are to be stored is a safe working environment.
- Always** Restrict entry to the room / space to only trained personnel
- Always** Display appropriate safety procedures and warning signs
- Always** Clean up spillages to prevent slip hazards
- Always** Ensure that the room / space is adequately ventilated
- Always** Ensure that the room / space is properly lit.
- Always** Ensure cylinders are properly secured.

**NEVER** Store cylinders on uneven ground, where the cylinder may fall causing injury or damage.

**NEVER** Block or obstruct the entrances to rooms or spaces where cylinders are stored, in the event of escape in an emergency.

## Safe handling of Gas Cylinders.

Personal injury could result from the improper handling of heavy, awkward cylinders such as to the back, neck or arms.

When manoeuvring cylinders into underground rooms or spaces, special care is required especially when lowering the cylinders down any drops.

If large cylinders are to be stored in underground rooms or spaces, there must be suitable lifting gear or equipment present to handle them safely.

**Always** Use personal protection when handling cylinders, gloves and footwear

**Always** If carrying cylinders, do so close to the body,

**Always** Ensure that when delivering to underground storage, ground level entry flaps are secured in place, and protective barriers are in place.

**NEVER** attempt to lift a cylinder which weighs over **25kg** by yourself; this could cause serious injury.

**NEVER** Lift a cylinder above chest height

**NEVER** try to lift or reach for a cylinder from behind other objects, this could cause serious strain or injury.

## Storing cylinders not in use.

**Always** Secure the cylinder in the upright position.

**Always** Return all empty unused cylinders to the supplier.

**NEVER** Store cylinders where they may come into contact with water

**NEVER** Store cylinders to a direct heat source; e.g. radiators, coolers etc.

**NEVER** Stack objects in front of cylinders.

## Storing cylinders which are being used.

- Always** Secure cylinders in an upright position
- Always** Only connect cylinders to suitable equipment, e.g. primary regulator or high pressure hose.
- Always** keep away from sources of heat
- Always** Ensure that before a cylinder is connected, that it is the correct gas or gas mixture by checking the label on the cylinder.
  
- NEVER** Touch a cylinder with frosting on the outside, this usually indicated a rapid uncontrolled release of gas.
  
- NEVER** Try to unscrew the cylinder valve from the cylinder.