

# Air Products' policy on oxygen sales to oxygen bars

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. (Air Products) is committed to the safety of its employees, customers and the public. As a part of its commitment to Responsible Care® and product stewardship, Air Products shares information on the safe handling and use of its products. Consistent with our safety philosophy, Air Products has a policy to not supply oxygen to oxygen bars.

An oxygen bar is an establishment that sells oxygen for recreational use. Flavored scents are often bubbled through the oxygen to produce a pleasant fragrance. There is no medically proven benefit associated with the administration of oxygen when blood oxygen levels are normal.

Air Products has several health and safety concerns related to oxygen bars.

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- **Lack of oxygen hazard awareness.**

Oxygen requires special handling by trained personnel. Although oxygen doesn't burn, it is an oxidizer that can enhance the combustion process. Ignition sources, such as smoking, including electronic cigarettes, near oxygen or after oxygen exposure, can create an extremely dangerous fire risk. Materials that may not burn in normal air may burn vigorously in an oxygen rich environment. In an oxygen bar, these materials include clothing and hair that have air spaces available to trap oxygen that can ignite rapidly. A person exposed to high oxygen concentrations should fully aerate clothing in fresh air and avoid all sources of ignition for at least 30 minutes.

The addition of substances, such as aroma oils, in the oxygen-enriched supply creates an additional fire hazard.

- **Health hazards of excess oxygen**

Exposure to high oxygen concentrations increases the risk of oxygen toxicity, the first signs of which are usually irritation, fluid accumulation and reduced lung function. For individuals with chronic lung disease, too much oxygen can cause breathing problems. Oxygen therapy must be performed and monitored by a regulated, trained health care professional.

If improperly maintained, the odorizing system could also be a potential area for bacterial growth. Inhalation of bacteria or other pathogens may lead to infection.

• **Inattention to system requirements**

Oxygen systems demand special design, maintenance and cleaning requirements. Industrial standards (e.g. ASTM, NFPA) provide technical information on design guidelines, hazards analysis and risk management for oxygen systems. System malfunctions, improper repairs or contamination can all lead to serious safety issues.

Several professional organizations, including the US Food and Drug Administration, share these safety and health concerns associated with oxygen bars.

Because of the concerns for public safety at oxygen bars, Air Products does not supply oxygen to these establishments.

**Emergency Response System**

T 800-523-9374 (Continental U.S. and Puerto Rico)

T +1-610-481-7711 (other locations)

For regional ER telephone numbers, please refer to the local SDS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for assistance involving Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. products

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**Technical Information Center**

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T +1-610-481-8565 (other locations)

Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST

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