

# RISKS OF BUYING HOME OXYGEN ONLINE





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***Buying Oxygen Online is dangerous. Do not do it!***

Oxygen is a drug which requires a prescription.

Oxygen should not be started without a clinical and safety assessment and should not be purchased from internet sources. Purchasing oxygen from internet sources without assessment can lead to a number of health and safety risks. See examples below.

- Taking too much oxygen can lead to oxygen toxicity and even death.
- Breathing high concentration of oxygen can cause damage to the lungs.
- For premature babies, too much oxygen can lead to problems in the brain and eyes.
- Breathing lower concentration of oxygen than required can result in damage to vital organs.
- Oxygen equipment bought on the internet that is not from one of the 4 contracted suppliers, might not be medically graded.
- Oxygen bought on the internet may contain impurities
- Buying oxygen online without an initial home safety assessment increases risks of fire and safety hazards.

- Home oxygen therapy involves breathing in air that contains a higher concentration of oxygen than normal. It can be used for several clinical needs, where people do not have enough oxygen in their blood.
- The oxygen is provided through a tube or mask connected to an oxygen cylinder or concentrator machine.
- A clinical specialist will carry out an assessment to determine whether oxygen is required and the best rate and type of equipment needed.
- **If you feel you or your child needs oxygen, there should be a medical assessment without delay. Oxygen given to a child who does not need it will offer no benefit and may cause harm.**
- Upon assessment, oxygen is prescribed and supplied by one of the four contracted home oxygen suppliers for England listed below:
  - ✓ Air Liquide
  - ✓ BOC
  - ✓ Vivisol
  - ✓ Baywater
- London Fire Brigade  
telephone: 080 0028 4428  
mobile: 07860 021 319  
email: [smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk)  
website: [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

