

SAFETY ALERT

November 15, 2022

RETURN OF EMPTY GAS CYLINDERS

Empty gas cylinders need to be returned to the vendor on a regular basis. Don't let these accumulate unnecessarily in your lab area! The following are guidelines for returning your empty gas cylinders:

1. When a cylinder is empty or needs to be returned, clearly mark it as "EMPTY". This can be with an affixed "empty" tag or simply use a piece of tape and write "EMPTY" or "MT" on it.
2. Place empty cylinders in the identified "empty cylinder" rack located in the designated building outdoor gas cylinder storage area. Vendors such as Linde and Airgas are on-site regularly and will remove these cylinders for us.
3. All gas cylinders must have the main valve cap securely affixed. Keep the cap near the cylinder when in use so it doesn't get misplaced. For missing caps, contact the vendor for replacements.
4. Keep cylinders from outdoor exposures over long periods of time. The weather causes important labels to fade or peel off. Cylinders for return must have all required Department of Transportation hazard labels affixed.

Some cylinders are not returnable. This includes many lecture bottle sized cylinders, calibration gas cylinders, and bottles used for propane torches. These need special disposal. Special disposal events are scheduled each year for these cylinders. These should be entered on the following request form so they are included in the special disposal events: [Non-Routine Gas Cylinder Removal Request Form](#)

If you have any questions about empty gas cylinder return or have a cylinder that you need help returning, please contact the ETA Safety Manager, Ron Scholtz at (510) 495-8137.



Make sure your cylinder has a cap affixed and is marked as “EMPTY”



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