

Refilling a Humidifier Bottle

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Oxygen is a dry gas that can be irritating to the mucous membranes. In some facilities, humidifiers are used to make oxygen therapy more comfortable for the resident. Distilled water passes through the humidifier, creating water vapor to moisten the oxygen before it reaches the resident.

In some facilities, nursing assistants are responsible for changing or refilling the humidifier. Some humidifiers are prefilled. Check your facility's policies to find out how often it should be changed if you are responsible for doing this. Refillable humidifiers are cleaned every 24 hours according to facility policy and are refilled with distilled water. Never refill a humidifier with tap water. Document the change or refill according to facility policy.