

Ventilators — Patient Resource Guide

Care instructions, equipment basics, and troubleshooting for home ventilator therapy.

Care Instructions

Daily

- Check tubing (the circuit) for moisture, kinks, or cracks.
- Empty water from the water trap if your circuit has one.
- Clean the humidifier chamber if used; refill with sterile/distilled water only.
- Visually inspect filters for dust or discoloration.

Weekly

- Wash reusable circuit components per your ventilator's manual. Disposable circuits should be replaced, not washed.
- Wipe down the exterior with a manufacturer-approved disinfectant wipe — no abrasive cleaners.

Scheduled Replacement

- Filters, circuits, and humidifier chambers all have manufacturer-specified replacement intervals — check your unit's schedule and keep replacements on hand.

Backup Power

- Keep an external battery charged and know how long it lasts on a full charge.
- Have a backup ventilator or manual resuscitation bag (Ambu bag) accessible if prescribed, and know how to use it.

Equipment & Usage Basics

- **Settings:** Never change ventilator settings (mode, rate, pressure, volume) without direct instruction from your physician or respiratory therapist.
- **Alarm limits:** Understand what each alarm means — high pressure, low pressure, disconnect, low battery, apnea.
- **Mode awareness:** Know which mode you're in and how the unit responds if your breathing pattern changes.
- **Cleaning vs. servicing:** Patient-level care is limited to cleaning/filter changes — internal servicing must be done by a biomedical technician, not at home.

Troubleshooting

Issue	What to check	When to call us
Alarm sounding	Identify which alarm, check all circuit connections	If you can't identify the cause, or patient shows distress — call our 24/7 RRT line immediately

Issue	What to check	When to call us
Low pressure/disconnect alarm	All circuit connections secure, no visible cracks	If alarm continues after reconnecting
Power failure	Switch to battery/backup power, confirm backup mode engaged	Call us immediately if backup power doesn't engage
Unusual noise from unit	Power source secure, filter not blocked	If noise continues or breathing seems affected
Patient appears in distress	—	Call 911 first if any doubt about breathing, then notify our 24/7 RRT line

Safety reminder: A ventilator alarm should never be ignored or silenced without identifying the cause. If you cannot resolve an alarm within a minute or the patient shows any signs of breathing difficulty, call 911 if needed, and always notify our 24/7 RRT line.

For any equipment issue you can't resolve, or any symptom that concerns you, our Respiratory and Clinical team is available 24/7 at (718) 854-5501. Don't wait for a problem to get worse — call us first.