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How to use a Nippy 4 ventilator

Respiratory Physiology Unit

Information for Patients and Carers

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What is a Nippy 4?

The Nippy 4 ventilator will be packed in a bag, ready for you to use at home.

Getting started

Take the ventilator, mains cable, tubing and mask out of the bag.

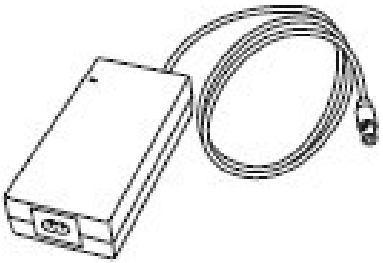
Put the ventilator on a solid, flat surface, close to the bed.

The ventilator works on mains electricity. It also has a battery in case there is a power cut.

Leave it plugged in so that the battery is always charged up.



Connect the power supply block and power cord together.





1. Plug the mains cable into the grey port at the back of the ventilator, until it clicks.



2. The cable should feel secure. Once turned on you will see a green light on the power supply block.



3. Attach one end of the grey tubing to the top of the ventilator.



4. Attach the other end of the tubing to the face mask.

5. You may have a different mask to the one in the photo. They will connect in the same way.



6. The ventilator is now set up and ready to use.

How to switch it on

Stand-by mode

Do a short press of the large on/off button on the top of the ventilator.

After pressing the button it takes about 15 seconds to power up and go into stand-by mode. The screen will be lit up ready to start using.

Please note: the locked padlock seen on the screen means that the settings are locked, so you cannot change any settings by mistake.





Starting treatment

When you are ready to use the Nippy 4, put the mask on your face.

Make sure there is a good seal and it looks and feels comfortable.

Press and hold the large on/off button on the ventilator until the progress bar across the screen has completely changed to blue.

The ventilator will then start.





Quick start option

To do a quick start of the ventilator, when the ventilator is in stand-by mode, do a short press of the on/off button on the top of the ventilator.

You will then be asked to press the ‘SET’ button to the right of the screen.

The ventilator will then start.

Switching off the ventilator

There are 2 ways to stop the ventilator.

Press and hold the large on/off button until the progress bar on the screen is full. It will be blue.

Then press the alarm silence button on the top right hand side when asked to confirm ’stop treatment’.





Or, press and hold the large on/off button until the progress bar on the screen is full. When asked to confirm the action, press the ‘Yes’ option to confirm on the right side of the main screen.

Please note: If the alarm sounds, while switching off the ventilator, press the alarm silence button. Start the process again.



Ventilator alarms

If the alarm sounds, a message appears on the screen explaining why. Please read the message and where possible, deal with the issue.

The alarm can be silenced for 1 minute. Press the alarm silence button at the top of the machine. This gives you time to find the problem.



The most common alarm you will hear is when the mask does not have a good seal around the face and there is air leaking.

A message will come up on the screen saying “High flow alarm” or disconnection. Moving or refitting the mask to make sure there is no leak should silence the alarm.

If there are any alarms you cannot fix, please take a note of the message on the screen. Contact Respiratory Physiology for advice. The number is on the yellow sticker on the handle of the ventilator. It is also on the last page of this leaflet.



How to use the humidifier

A humidifier warms and moistens the air you get from the ventilator. Not everyone needs a humidifier. For many people, humidification is important for ventilation to be comfortable and work well.

Please note: the humidifier only works when the ventilator is plugged in to the mains power. It will **not** work on the battery.

Always stop treatment on the ventilator before removing or fitting the humidifier.

If the person is ventilator dependent, they will need to be swapped onto their spare ventilator whilst the humidifier is being emptied, filled or cleaned. This means they will have ventilation all the time. This will stop breaks in treatment.

Fitting the humidifier chamber

The humidifier chamber fits into the left hand side of the ventilator, behind the blue/grey plastic panel.

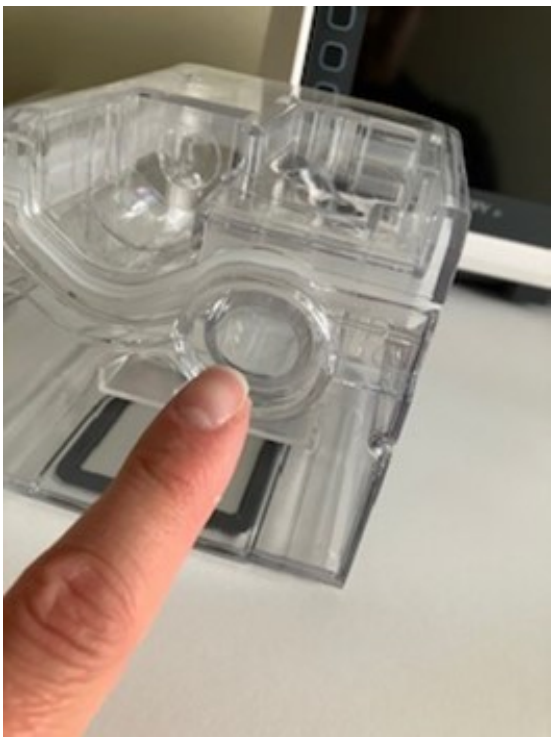
1. Lift the handle. Press the small button on the right to remove the blue/grey panel.
2. Press the small button on the left to remove the white block (if you have one). Insert the filled humidifier chamber.
3. Push in the humidifier chamber until you hear a **click**.



Filing the humidifier



1. Switch off the ventilator and remove the chamber.
2. To remove the humidifier chamber, lift the handle on the ventilator. Press the left hand button under the handle. Slide the chamber away from the ventilator.
3. The chamber should be filled to the maximum fill line on the side with cool boiled or sterile water.
4. Fill the chamber through one of the airway connections.



5. You can also fill the chamber by removing the lid.

6. Always make sure the lid of the chamber is totally sealed to stop any leaks.





The humidifier setting on the ventilator should already be set to on in the humidifier

settings. It will start to work when the ventilator is plugged into the mains and the treatment started.

Please note: once filled with water, the ventilator should not be moved, as water may splash inside the ventilator. This could stop the ventilator working. A yellow sticker is on the humidifier chamber to remind you.



Changing the humidifier settings for comfort

There are 5 settings to set the level of moisture you get from the humidifier.

1 is the lowest (most dry), 5 is the highest (most moist).

If you are finding the air is still too dry, the setting may be increased. Or if too moist, the setting may be reduced.

To do this:

1. Make sure the ventilator is plugged into the mains electricity and in stand-by mode.
2. Press the button next to the word MENU on the main front screen of the ventilator.
3. Using the up and down arrows, select the ‘Humidifier settings’ option, then press SET.
4. Use the up and down arrows to change the humidifier setting, to the setting wanted. Press SET to confirm.

How to clean the humidifier

Remember: After each use, remove the humidifier chamber and empty out any unused water.

Open the humidifier and clean both parts at least once a week. Use a mild detergent.

If you see any limescale in the chamber, you can dissolve it. Soak the humidifier chamber in lemon juice and water for 30 minutes. Do not use any other descaling products.

There is a video available online for further support, showing how to use the humidifier.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwy1rXtL1VY

General cleaning and maintenance

Clean the tubing and mask once a week.

- Use warm soapy water and rinse
- Leave to air dry.
- Avoid getting the material straps too wet. They take longer to dry.
- Use a dry cloth to wipe the ventilator.

Adding oxygen through the ventilator

Some patients may need to use oxygen through the ventilator.

If you have been asked to use oxygen through the ventilator, connect your oxygen tubing to the silver metal port at the back of the ventilator.

Do not leave the oxygen flowing through the ventilator if the machine is not in use.

Always turn off the oxygen when switching off the ventilator.

Please note: You should only use extra oxygen through the ventilator if this has been prescribed by your doctor.



Checking the air filters

There are 2 air filters (1 white and 1 black). They are under the right side panel of the ventilator. These trap dust particles. They should be checked once a week.



You can access the filters by

- lifting the handle at the top of the ventilator
- pressing the small blue/grey button under the handle on the right
- removing the side panel



Rinse the black sponge filter with water. Pat it dry once a week.

Replace the white cloth filter once a month.

When replacing the filters, put the white filter on top of the black filter.

Put both on the ‘boot shaped’ groove on the side panel.

Reattach the side panel and push to close, until you hear a **click.**







Checking the cooling air filter

There is a filter for the ventilators cooling fan which is on the bottom left hand side of the ventilator.

Access the filter by pulling on the top of the panel.

Remove the filter and wash it once a week.

Replace every 2 years.





Battery information

Internal battery

All Nippy 4 ventilators have an internal battery. It will automatically charge when the ventilator is plugged into the mains electricity.

If there is a power cut, the internal battery will run the ventilator for at around 2 hours. An alarm will sound to let you know when the ventilator is running low on battery power.

As you need to use a medical device overnight, you are eligible to register for the national grid's priority services register. This can be done online by searching for: www.nationalgrid.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services/priority-services-register/

Being on the register allows closer contact with you regarding power cuts. This is 24 hours a day, so they will call anytime if there are power cuts in the local area.

You can report a power cut by calling **105** or **0800 6783 105**

External check-in battery

You may have been given a click-in battery. This will give you around 4 more hours of charge.

It is clicked into place where the humidifier chamber would sit, behind the panel on the left.

The click-in battery will charge straight away when put into the ventilator if plugged into the mains power. You can check how much charge is in each battery by looking at the battery symbols at the bottom of the main screen on the ventilator.

Once a month you should run the ventilator on battery power until fully run down, this will extend the life of the battery. If the battery does not hold at least 4 hours of charge, then please contact the department.

Contact details

If you have any problems or concerns, please contact the Respiratory Physiology Department:

For Respiratory Physiology appointment enquiries:

0116 258 3420

For equipment or mask enquiries: **0116 258 3419** For any non-urgent ventilation queries, email: **uhl-tr.RPUSupport@nhs.net**

Please note: The Respiratory Physiology department is not open at the weekends or overnight. We are open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

Outside of these hours, a message can be left on the answer machine: **0116 258 3419**

We will get back to you as soon as possible during our opening hours.

Or in the case of **urgent equipment failure**, the Respiratory Support Team can be contacted.

Their service runs from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week:

07977 582 194.

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice
Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

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If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research

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