

GAS BLENDS FOR DRAUGHT BEER DISPENSE



Before using any compressed gas cylinder, you should read and familiarize yourself with all safety precautions to avoid serious injury or death.

Depending on the pressure required in a draught system, either CO₂ or a blend of CO₂ and nitrogen (N₂) is required to maintain the natural carbonation and protect beer quality. Beverage grade gas, as defined by the International Society of Beverage Technologists (ISBT) must be used for beer dispense.

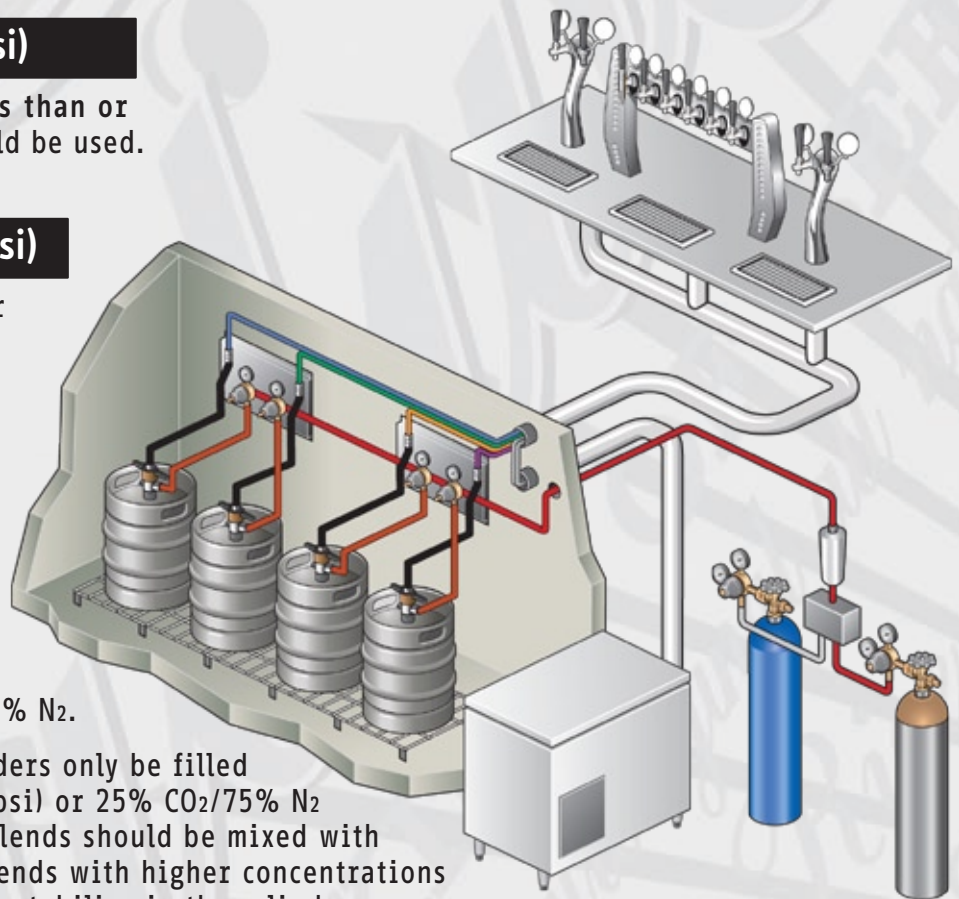
Because oxygen (air) can quickly affect the flavor and quality of the beer, air compressors must not be used to push beer at retail. Only under extremely limited circumstances (i.e., special events with picnic pumps) may air be used for draught dispense.

Low Pressure Systems (≤ 15 psi)

- When the applied pressure is less than or equal to 15 psi, straight CO₂ should be used. Blended gas is not recommended.

High Pressure Systems (>15 psi)

- When applied pressure is greater than 15 psi, a blend of CO₂/N₂ should be used to prevent over-carbonation.
- Blended gases are best produced with a blending box because the blender combines the gases at fixed proportions.
- High pressure systems today are generally balanced to push beers with a blend of 60% CO₂/40% N₂.
- It is recommended that gas cylinders only be filled with 30% CO₂/70% N₂ (for 40-55 psi) or 25% CO₂/75% N₂ (for nitrogenated beers). Other blends should be mixed with a blending box. Pre-mixed gas blends with higher concentrations of CO₂ can cause the mixture to destabilize in the cylinder.
- See chart below to determine which blend is best for your draught system. If not used as recommended in the chart, the risk of flat beer increases with time on tap.



Gas Blend Chart

- 80 CO₂ / 20 N₂ for pressures from 16-19 psi
- 60 CO₂ / 40 N₂ for pressures from 20-29 psi
- 50 CO₂ / 50 N₂ for pressures from 30-39 psi
- 30 CO₂ / 70 N₂ for pressures from 40-55 psi
- 25 CO₂ / 75 N₂ used for nitrogenated beers

Note: To ensure the best quality gas is being used in both high & low pressure systems, it's recommended that a gas filter (AB item #3000A) be installed, where legal, per manufacturer's instructions and replaced annually.

These quality standards represent minimum requirements to achieve quality draught beer. Additional steps may be required to ensure the highest quality is achieved.