

Instructions for Helium Inflatables

Helium Requirements

Three (3) foot round ball	15 cu. Ft.	Ten (10) foot Hot Air Shape	410 cu. Ft.
Five (5) foot round ball	66 cu. Ft.	Thirteen (13) Foot Blimp	245 cu. Ft.
Six (6) foot round ball	198 cu. Ft.	Seventeen (17) Foot Blimp	460 cu. Ft.
Seven (7) foot round ball	210 cu. Ft.	Twenty (20) Foot Blimp	750 cu. Ft.
Ten (10) foot round ball	523 cu. Ft.		
Eight (8) foot Hot Air Shape	220 cu. Ft.		

Helium is normally sold in tanks of 219, 244 and 291 cu. Ft.

1. Before filling balloons, you must put on proper eye protection, such as glasses or goggles, and proper ear protection, such as ear plugs or ear muffs, to protect against accidental breakage.
2. Make sure you have enough helium to inflate your size balloon.
3. Consider the inflation area. Ideally, inflate balloons in the area they will be used. Remember that a fully inflated, Jumbo Balloon will not fit through standard sized doors. Make sure the inflation area is large enough to accommodate the balloon and is clear of sharp objects.
4. Consider inflating with an assistant. Because of the size of the balloon, it will be difficult to determine by yourself how close you are to full inflation size. If another person is not available, establish benchmarks in the room that will help you determine the inflation size.
5. If buying a 6 foot balloon, it should be noted that the balloon will fill to a full 6 foot diameter but it is not recommended to fill any larger than that. It should also be noted that helium will expand as the temperature rises. To guard against premature rupture on days when you expect a high temperature change, it is recommended that you fill balloons to 70-80% of capacity to allow for expansion.
6. Position the balloon neck to cover the regulator nozzle, and maintain a tight grip while inflating.

If you are doing helium balloons outside, preinflate the balloons with an air pump with air first and let it all out. You don't want to waste helium. And you can do this in advance of the event. It is a good thing to do this will all size balloons outdoors. We prefer to do this for 30" or greater balloon indoor work also but don't always have the time. It pre-stretches the balloon and if it bursts you haven't lost all that helium. You can't control what a latex balloon will do, ever.

The longer the air stays in it, the better. Let it sit overnight with a clothes pin to hold it tight. Fill with helium and tie in a knot the next morning when you are ready to install outdoors.

Contents: Inflatable, harness lines, inflation hose, tether line, repair kit, valve or rubber bands, manual.

To Inflate:

- **Unfold the inflatable in a sheltered area on a clean, smooth surface. It is recommended to use a tarp to lay the inflatable on, while unfolding to reduce the possibility of it being punctured by a rough or sharp object.**
 - **Check to make sure the tether line harness is not tangled and the lines are tied securely to the inflatable.**
 - **Attach one end of the tether line to the harness ring and tie the other end to the stationery object from which it will be flown.**
 - **Screw the inflation hose adapter into the helium tank.**
 - **Insert the inflation hose into the inflatable filling valve by unscrewing the second section of valve and hold it firmly.**
 - **Turn the helium tank valve on very slowly. High pressure to begin with could rupture the inflatable. As the inflatable starts to unfold and the pressure inside the tank starts to diminish, you may then open the valve more.**
 - **Inflate until wrinkles begin to disappear from the hull of the inflatable and it is just firm, do not over inflate.**
 - **Turn the helium tank off.**
 - **Remove the inflation hose from the inflatable valve being careful not to let helium escape.**
 - **Close the valve on the inflatable or on inflatables with sleeve (twist sleeve until tight and fold over twice and put rubber band around to hold).**
 - **Raise the inflatable slowly to the height desired and tie it securely at that point. As you let the inflatable rise, check the tether line to make sure there are no weak or frayed areas.**
 - **Make certain that the inflatable and rope is not close to any building, trees, high-tension lines, or any other object it could possibly come in contact with. The inflatable will sway from side to side in bad weather conditions. Measure your tether line and make sure nothing is within the distance in all directions from your tiedown point to the length of your tether line.**
- DO NOT TRY TO FLY THE INFLATABLE IN BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

IN FLIGHT OPERATION

- **For continuous use, you may need to bring the inflatable down every 3 to 7 days, depending upon weather conditions and temperature, to top it off with helium. Helium expands in hot temperatures and contracts in cold temperatures.**
- **To maintain the inflatable in more permanent position, 2 or 3 tether lines may be attached to the harness ring spaced equal distance when anchored to the fixed object on the ground. This adds weight so be careful.**
- **To prevent damage to the inflatable, it should be taken down immediately when wind or other weather conditions become strong.**
- **On blimp models, the tether lines of the harness should be adjusted so the blimp flies with the nose angled upward about 7-10 degrees. Adjust the front and rear lines first, then adjust the middle line until all lines are taught.**

- Do not attach a tether line, or any other kind of line, to the anchor loop on the nose on the blimp. The nose anchor loop is only used when it is displayed indoors for the purpose of giving direction. No load should be placed on this loop. The line attached to the nose cone is for cosmetic purpose only, to simulate the appearance of the real large blimps.
- On round inflatables, when first inflated with helium, do not attach a tether line, or any other kind of line, to the anchor loop at the top. This anchor loop is used to tie the inflatable from above when inflated with air only for inside display or you can use this when deflating.

DO NOT:

- Do not fly the inflatable in winds exceeding 15 miles per hour, thunderstorms, or other severe weather conditions.
- Do not leave the inflatable unattended.
- To not attach the tether lines to any place on balloon other than the harness ring.
- Do not fly the inflatable where it might possibly come in contact with buildings, high tension lines, or any other objects. Test length of tether line in all directions.
- Do not tie tether line to anything that can cut line.

DO:

- Check all lines daily to make certain they are tied securely and do not have any fraying or cuts.
- Allow adequate maneuvering area for the inflatable.

REPAIR :

- If a leak develops, check first to make certain the filling valve is properly sealed.
- Next check to make sure caps on small filling valves (if present) are on tight.

CHECKING FOR LEAKS:

- Fill the inflatable tight with air using the exhaust end of a shop vac or leaf blower.
- Visually inspect for hole or tears.
- Pinholes can be detected by slowly moving your palm just over the inflatable surface to detect any area where air is escaping.
- Leaks can also be detected using a tube light or mechanics work light that can be purchased at most auto supply stores or home improvement stores.
- These lights have a fluorescent cool white and are made of plastic with no sharp edges. Insert the light through the filling sleeve. Tie off the filling sleeve with the light cord through it with masking tape. Darken the room as much as possible and then inspect the inflatable for holes or tears. When a hole or tear is found, place a piece of masking tape over it and proceed looking for others.

REPAIRING LEAKS:

- After locating leaks, deflate the inflatable.
- Cover the hole from the inside with transparent tape to extend at least ¼ inch on all sides of the hole.
- Patch the hole on the outside by placing that particular area on a smooth, hard surface. There should be no wrinkles on the area to be patched.
- Cut the desired size of repair material to allow at least ½ inch around all sides of hole. Round corners slightly.
- Coat the area to be patched with adhesive, place the patch over the adhesive and keep pressure on it for several minutes.
- Smooth out any wrinkles and air bubbles.
- Place a weight over the patch and let it sit there for about 15 minutes.
- Let patch dry for several hours before inflating.

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE:

With proper care and handling and following the instructions in this manual, your inflatable should serve you well for an indefinite period. To clean, use warm water with a mild detergent and a soft cloth. Dry it completely using another soft cloth. If the inflatable will not be used for several days, make certain it is clean and dry before storing in protective bag.