

## Inflating Foil Balloons

### Inflation Equipment

Foil Inflation Regulator (Pressure not to exceed 16 inches of water)

Helium Tank

String or ribbon for tying

Balloon Weight of the correct size to hold down the balloon being inflated

Use an inflator which has an automatic shut-off for foil balloons as shown in figure 1. Do not use a latex balloon inflation regulator to inflate foil balloons! Damage to the balloon will result.

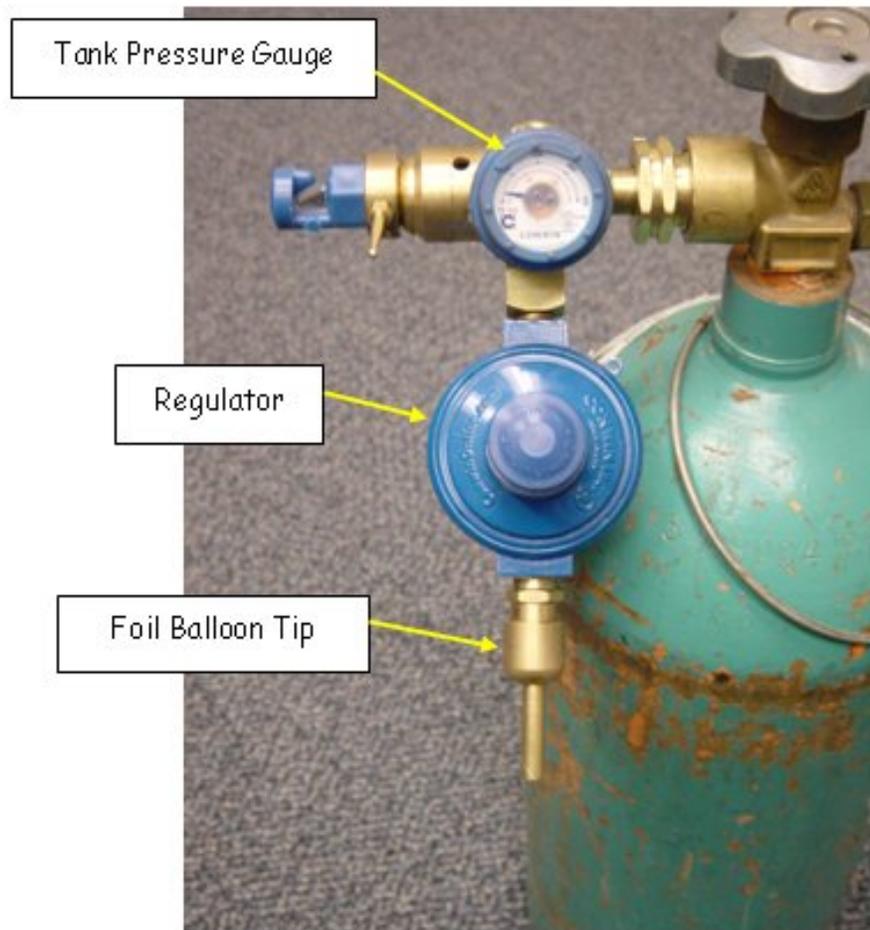


Figure 1

**Step 1) Attach a ribbon to the un-inflated balloon**

The preferred method of attaching the ribbon to the balloon is to use an adhesive tape. Remember that the tape must be strong enough to firmly hold the ribbon to the balloon.

Attach the ribbon to the balloon tail to the side away from the inflation access hole as shown in figure 4 below.



Figure 4

If ribbon is tied to the balloon tail, make sure to tie the ribbon toward the bottom of the tail, not around the self sealing valve. The correct method of tying is shown in figure 5.



Figure 5, Correct Tying Method

### **Step 2) Tie the other end of ribbon to a balloon weight**

Select a weight that exceeds the lift of the balloon by at least 50% so that the balloon will be held in place and not move around the room.

### **Step 3) Balloon Inflation**

Place the balloon onto the inflation tip into inflation access hole as shown in figure 2. Gently insert the tip into the access hole until the tip is inside the balloon tail.

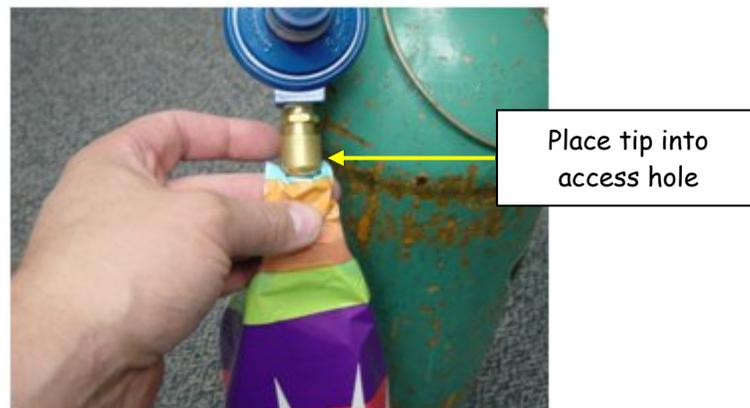


Figure 2

Push back the tip to allow helium to flow into the balloon as shown in figure 3.



Figure 3

Continue to inflate until helium stops flowing into the balloon. The balloon is now fully inflated.

Keep in mind that many other types of inflation regulators are available; the method of starting and stopping helium flow may vary.

### Other things to consider:

Never tie an inflated balloon around the valve area as shown in figure 6. Tying the ribbon around the valve area will reduce the inflated life of the balloon. Damage to the valve will result allowing helium to escape more quickly.



Figure 6 Incorrect Tying Method

Contrary to popular belief, a foil balloon that is slightly under inflated (inflated only until just beginning to appear firm) will last longer than a balloon that is over inflated. More helium in the balloon does not equal longer hang time. Over inflation damages the balloon and self sealing valve reducing balloon life.

Differences in air temperature, barometric pressure, and altitude will change the length of time a balloon stays firmly inflated.

Helium will expand or contract due to temperature changes. Balloons should be inflated in the same area where the balloon will be displayed. If a balloon is inflated in a warm room and taken outside to very cold conditions, it will appear to have lost helium. When the balloon is returned to normal temperatures it will expand back to its original shape. If a balloon is inflated in a cool room and taken outside to very hot conditions, it could over expand the balloon and cause damage or possibly even burst the balloon.

Barometric pressure will also affect the appearance of balloons. Days with low barometric readings will make the balloons look "fuller" while days with high barometric readings will make the balloons appear softer. Barometric

pressure shifts are common when storms pass through. Don't be surprised to see changes in balloon appearance after storms.

Balloons float differently in different altitudes. The amount of lift the balloon has will decrease in higher altitudes due to the "thinner" air. Balloons float more at sea level.