

## How nebulizers create a mist

A nebulizer compressor works by forcing pressurized air or oxygen through a liquid medicine or sterile water. The airflow moves over a baffle, creating a fine mist of particles that can be inhaled.

If the trach air compressor is not creating mist, it is likely due to one of the following issues:

- The bottle is cross threaded. Have the patient unscrew the bottle and rescrew it on straight
- The bottle's lid may not be on all the way
- Make sure the straw that goes into the water is still there and not missing
- Make sure the water is not above the MAX fill line

## Consequences of overfilling

- **Ineffective treatment:** If the liquid in the nebulizer bottle exceeds the fill line, the airflow is less effective at creating an aerosol. The mist that is produced may consist of larger droplets that cannot be properly inhaled into the lungs.
- **Equipment malfunction:** The increased volume of liquid can put additional strain on the compressor. It can also cause moisture to build up in the tubing, which further restricts airflow and can lead to damage over time.

## No mist coming out of Trach mask

- If the nebulizer bottle is creating mist before you connect the corrugated tubing, but the mist is not reaching the end of the trach mask, then that means the corrugated tubing is too long. They should not be using more than 6 feet of corrugated tubing.
- Have the patient cut the corrugated tubing shorter until they see mist coming out of the end.