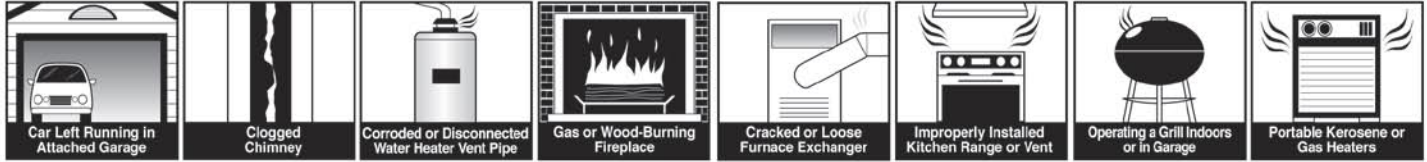


CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING: HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM THE SILENT KILLER

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. Every year more than 10,000 people die or seek medical attention due to CO poisoning from home-related products, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Often called the "Silent Killer," carbon monoxide is odorless, tasteless, and invisible. The only safe way to detect CO in your home is to install a CO alarm.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide



Know the Facts

- CO is produced anytime a fossil fuel [like gasoline, wood, oil, or propane] is burned, and becomes lethal when a product malfunctions or is not properly ventilated. Potential sources include furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, clothes dryers, barbecue grills, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, gas ovens, generators, and vehicle exhaust fumes.
- More than two-thirds of Americans use gas, wood, kerosene or another fuel as their home's major heat source.
- 65% of CO poisoning deaths from consumer products are due to heating systems. (CPSC)
- Only 27% of homes in America have carbon monoxide alarms, according to the Hardware/Homecenter Research Industry.

Health Risks and Symptoms

At high concentration levels, carbon monoxide can be fatal in minutes. When breathed in, CO passes through the lungs and bonds with hemoglobin in your bloodstream, displacing the oxygen that cells need to function. Because symptoms often mimic the flu, CO poisoning is easily misdiagnosed.

Minor Symptoms	Moderate symptoms (in addition to minor symptoms)	Severe symptoms (in addition to moderate symptoms)
Headache	Drowsiness	Increased Heart Rate
Nausea	Weakness	Loss of consciousness
Vomiting	Dizziness	Convulsions/Seizure
Irritability	Fainting	
Blurred Vision	Severe Headache	
	Difficulty Thinking	

Safety Tips

- Install at least one battery-powered CO alarm or AC-powered unit with battery backup on each level of your home and near sleeping areas.
- Install fuel-burning appliances properly, operate according to manufacturer's instructions, and have a licensed professional inspect them annually.
- Keep chimneys clear of animal nests, leaves and residue to ensure proper venting. Have all fireplaces cleaned and inspected annually.
- Do not block or seal the exhaust flues or ducts used by water heaters, ranges and dryers.
- Do not power an engine or use a charcoal/gas grill inside the home, in an attached garage or porch, or outdoors near a window where CO fumes could seep in through a window.
- Do not use ovens or stoves to heat your home.
- Check all carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Do they need new batteries? Like all appliances, CO alarms do not last forever, and technology advances. Replace alarms built before 2001 every five years, and alarms built after 2001 every seven years in order to benefit from the latest technology upgrades