

# CARBON MONOXIDE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, gas that can kill quickly and without warning. Some symptoms of CO poisoning could include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Fatigue or weakness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of consciousness
- Light-headedness
- Blurred vision
- Sleepiness
- Loss of muscle control
- Increased heart rate
- Tightening in the chest
- Confusion and disorientation

CAN BE STOPPED



### WHERE DOES CO COME FROM?

CO is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it.



### HOW TO PREVENT CO POISONING

- Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home. Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. Place your detector where it will wake you up if it alarms, such as outside your bedroom. Replace your CO detector every five years.
- Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- If you smell an odor from your gas refrigerator have an expert service it. An odor from your gas refrigerator can mean it could be leaking CO.
- When you buy gas equipment, buy only equipment carrying the seal of a national testing agency, such as Underwriters' Laboratories.
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly. Horizontal vent pipes for appliances, such as a water heater, should go up slightly as they go toward outdoors. This prevents CO from leaking if the joints or pipes aren't fitted tightly.
- Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Chimneys can be blocked by debris. This can cause CO to build up inside your home or cabin.
- Never patch a vent pipe with tape, gum, or something else. This kind of patch can make CO build up in your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating a room. This can cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent.
- When using a generator, use a battery-powered or battery backup CO detector in your home.

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# How to use a Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detector

- 1. Remove your detector from the package and install batteries.**
- 2. Place your detector in a location close to where you sleep, so you can hear it if it alarms.**
- 3. If your detector alarms, DO NOT IGNORE THE ALARM! Evacuate all people and pets from your home immediately. Find fresh air away from the home.**
- 4. Once all people and pets are away from the home, call 911 to report that your CO detector has sounded and there may be carbon monoxide in your home.**
- 5. Even if the alarm stops, do not re-enter the home, assume there is still dangerous levels of CO in the home. Do not re-enter the home until your home has been deemed safe by emergency personnel.**

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