

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Where is carbon monoxide found?



What is carbon monoxide?

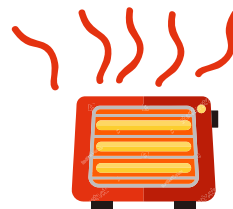
Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas that has no color and no smell and is lighter than air. It's made when something is not burned all the way, or is burned in a space where there's no air moving. CO poisons the body's cells and stops them getting oxygen. CO is very dangerous for pregnant women, as it can cause serious problems or even death for **unborn babies**.

How do you know if someone is poisoned?

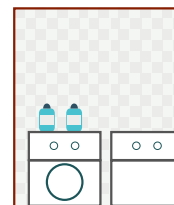
- Mild poisoning – slight headache, nausea, vomiting, tiredness
- More serious poisoning – throbbing headache, drowsiness, confusion, heart irregularities
- Severe poisoning – convulsions, unconsciousness, heart failure, brain damage, death

How can I cut down my risk?

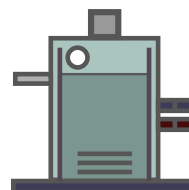
- Have all fuel-burning appliances, furnaces and fireplaces checked by a professional, at least once a year.
- Have an approved CO detector on each floor of your home, near bedrooms
- Never use a charcoal grill indoors
- Don't run any gas powered equipment inside your home or garage



Space heaters: space heaters that burn any fuel (except electric models) could give off CO and should be vented into the outside air. If a space heater has no vent, it should never be used inside. It's really dangerous to use a kerosene heater that's not meant to heat a home or one that's not put in by a professional.



Clothes dryers: gas dryers can cause CO poisoning when the exhaust hose gets loose or when the exhaust is used to heat a room. A dryer can move during use and loosen the exhaust hose. If this happens, CO can get into the air.



Furnaces: a furnace that is not vented the right way can let out CO. Uncapped chimneys that vent furnaces can become blocked. Furnaces should be serviced yearly.



Water heaters: every water heater should be vented into a chimney. The exhaust must be properly lined up and the exhaust pipe and chimney kept clear so that all gases are vented out and don't get into your home.



1.800.222.1222



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What should I do if the alarm on my CO detector goes off?

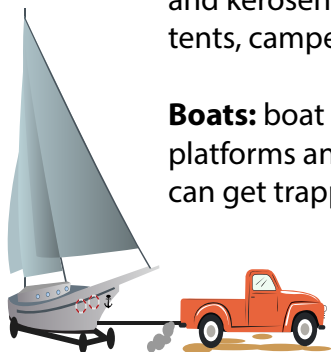
Always believe your alarm and act right away:

- Round up everyone in your home, including pets - move them to fresh air
- Don't air out your home – this will make it hard to find where the CO is coming from
- If anyone seems sick - call 911 right away. If everyone is fine, call the fire department or gas company for help.

Automobiles: Open your garage door before starting any vehicle. The motor should be turned off any time the vehicle is in the garage. Don't warm up the vehicle inside, even if the door is open – pull it completely out .

Camping: things that make flames, like propane stoves and kerosene lanterns should never be used inside tents, campers and boat cabins.

Boats: boat engines make CO. Swim away from boat platforms and caution around houseboats where CO can get trapped under the deck.



Stoves: when natural gas stoves are used as a heater, CO can leak out. These stoves should never be used to heat a room.



Fireplaces: need to have a working flue and a clean chimney. CO can get into the room if the chimney is blocked or if the flue doesn't have enough updraft. Flues and chimneys need to be checked by a professional before cold weather starts and the fireplace is used.



Gas powered equipment: lawnmowers, leaf blowers and other small gas powered equipment make CO when being used. They should never be used inside. They can be repaired inside, but should only be tested by starting them **outside**.



Charcoal grills: smoke from burning charcoal has a lot of CO and is dangerous in spaces where there is no moving air. This can happen when charcoal is used to heat a room or when a grill is used to cook food indoors during bad weather.

Remember: the best way to stop CO poisoning is to have your heating and water systems checked every year by a ulified contractor. The vent system and chimneys should be inspected, repaired and replaced as needed every year.

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