



What is Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

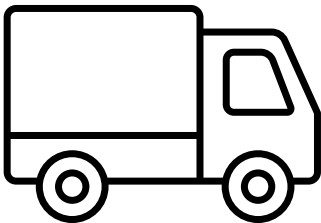
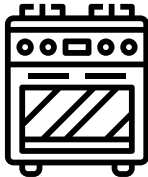
Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas. Carbon monoxide is produced from burning fuel and can build up if not properly ventilated. Carbon monoxide poisoning is caused by breathing in too much carbon monoxide. It can cause sudden illness and death without warning if inhaled.

Carbon monoxide is commonly produced by:

- gas or oil-burning furnaces
- portable generators
- grills
- cars/trucks
- engines
- stoves

Symptoms: similar to “flu like”

- headache
- dizziness
- weakness
- upset stomach
- vomiting
- chest pain
- confusion
- sleepiness
- loss of muscle control
- loss of consciousness
- blurred vision
- shortness of breath





Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Install a CO detector near every sleeping area and on every floor of your home
- Change batteries regularly and make sure detectors are functioning properly
- Replace detectors every five years or follow the manufacturer's instructions

FURNACES (OIL AND GAS)

- Get service from a qualified technician annually
- Ensure appliances are vented properly by confirming joints and pipes are fitted tightly to prevent leaks
- Do not heat your home with a gas oven
- Only buy equipment with a seal of a national testing agency

VEHICLES

- Get service from a qualified mechanic every year for the exhaust system to ensure it is not leaking
- Do not run a vehicle inside a garage attached to a house, even with the door open
- When driving with an open tailgate, open the vents and windows since CO from the exhaust will be pulled into the vehicle

PORTABLE GENERATORS

- Never use a generator inside your home or in your garage
- Generators should be placed outdoors more than 20 feet from any openings (doors, vents, windows)

OTHER HOUSEHOLD PREVENTION

- Check or clean your chimney annually- ensure it is clear and is venting properly
- Do not burn charcoal indoors
- Do not use a portable gas camp stove inside

BOATS

- Some large boats have generators that vent toward the back of the boat, which can cause danger to those swimming near the rear swim deck or water platform
- Swim and play away from areas that vent exhaust
- Do not block exhaust outlets
- Traveling at slow speeds or idling can cause CO to build up
- Dock, anchor, or beach at least 20 feet away from a boat using a generator or engine