

## What does it feel like?

### Mild exposure:

Flu-like symptoms including slight headache, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue.

### Medium exposure:

Severe headache, drowsiness, confusion and a fast heart rate.

Prolonged exposure at this level can result in death.

**Extreme exposure:** Loss of consciousness, convulsions, heart and lung failure, possible brain damage and death.

## Where does carbon monoxide come from?

Carbon monoxide comes from any burning fossil-fuel.

*That includes:*

- Vehicles, lawn mowers, generators or any combustion engine. Carbon monoxide can accumulate when an engine is run inside, even if the garage or room appears ventilated.
- Fuel-burning appliance that are malfunctioning, such as a furnace, gas range/stove, gas clothes dryer, water heater, etc.
- Fireplaces, charcoal grills and wood-burning stoves.
- Blocked chimney or flue.

## Am I required to install a carbon monoxide alarm?

Yes. Mecklenburg County health regulations require at least one working carbon monoxide alarm in ALL dwellings, including single-family homes, condominiums, town homes, mobile homes, apartments, duplexes, rental homes, etc. The alarms must be battery-powered or have a battery back-up. Regulations require landlords to provide working CO alarms in all rental properties. Operators of child care centers are also required to install CO alarms.



Learn more:  
[www.carbonmonoxide1.com](http://www.carbonmonoxide1.com)  
704.336.2154

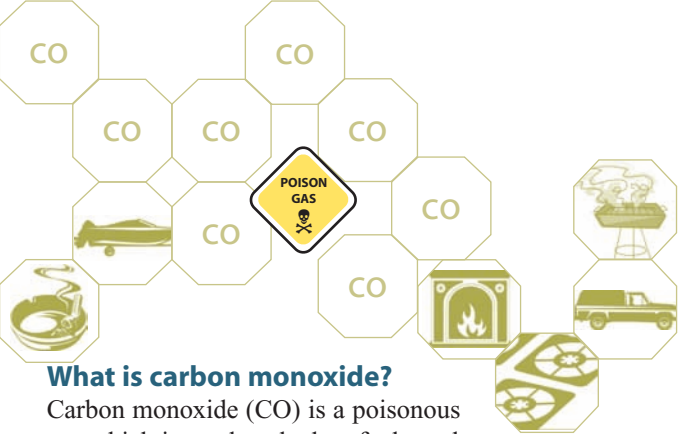


# Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer

Learn how to protect yourself  
and your family.





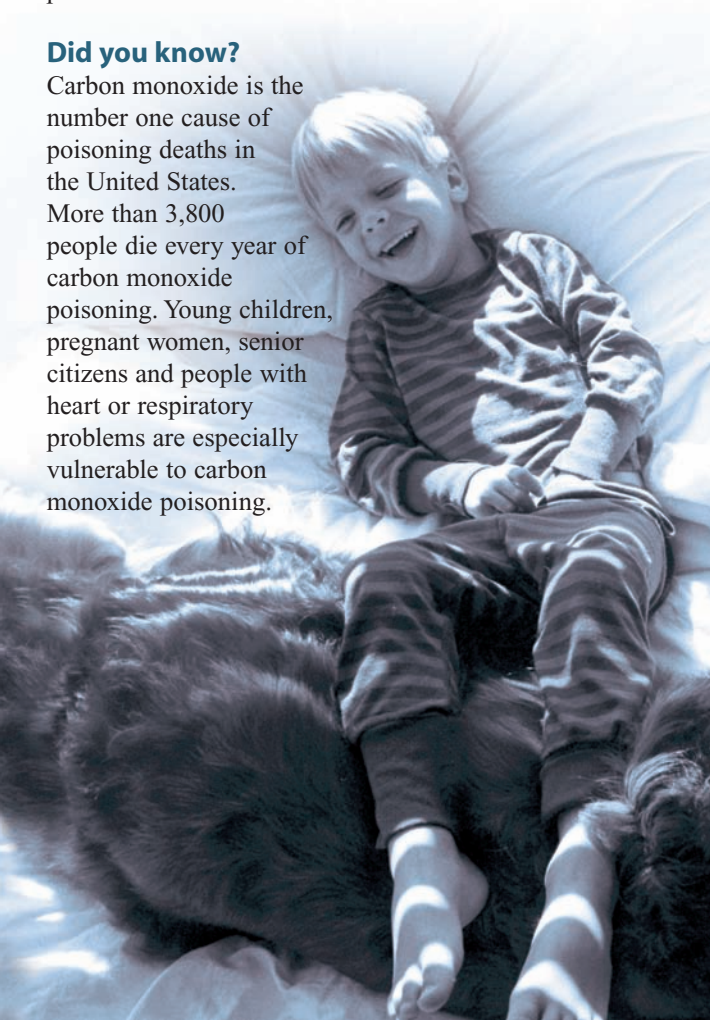


### What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas which is produced when fuels such as gasoline or natural gas burns. It is colorless, tasteless, odorless and non-irritating. It can rapidly accumulate even in areas that might appear well ventilated and overcome a person without warning. It frequently produces weakness and confusion.

### Did you know?

Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the United States. More than 3,800 people die every year of carbon monoxide poisoning. Young children, pregnant women, senior citizens and people with heart or respiratory problems are especially vulnerable to carbon monoxide poisoning.



### How do I prevent carbon monoxide poisoning?

- NEVER leave a car running in a garage.
- NEVER use a charcoal grill or generator indoors.
- Operate gas burning appliances in a well-ventilated room.
- Use a gas stove for cooking purposes only.
- Make sure your furnace or oil heater is properly maintained and inspected before the first use of the winter season.
- Open windows periodically to air out your house.
- Inspect chimneys and flues for cracks, corrosion, holes, debris or blockages.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms.

### Buying and installing a carbon monoxide alarm:

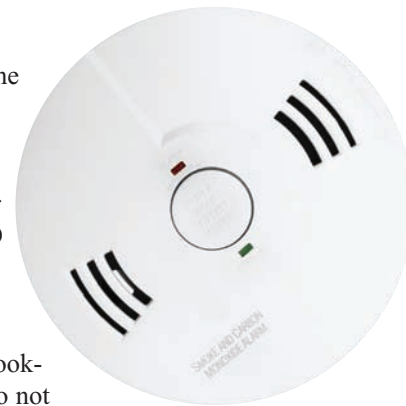
Carbon monoxide alarms sound a loud noise before the levels of CO become immediately dangerous. Prices can range from \$20 to \$100 and can be purchased from local home improvement, hardware or discount stores.

Make sure your alarm has a battery back-up and is listed with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Canadian Approval Services (CAS).

Place your alarms near each sleeping area. The alarm should be located where carbon monoxide can reach it and where the alarm



will awaken anyone sleeping in the home. Do not locate alarms in a garage, kitchen or furnace room. CO alarms should be at least 15 feet from the furnace, water heater, or cooking appliances. Do not mount them in a dusty, dirty or greasy area, or in extremely humid areas. Follow the instructions furnished with the alarm.



### What do I do when the alarm goes off?

Call 911 and evacuate the home. Make sure everyone is accounted for. The fire department and MEDIC will determine the danger and provide first aid, if necessary.

Contact a heating contractor to track down the source of the carbon monoxide and repair the problem. Since CO is colorless, tasteless and odorless, you likely won't see, taste or smell anything.

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