

Carbon Monoxide

Deadly and Odorless

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you.

Carbon monoxide has been called “The Great Imitator.” It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between minor carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms and the flu. This is one of the reasons carbon monoxide detectors are so important.

The most common early signs of poisoning due to carbon monoxide are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Any person exposed to carbon monoxide who has anything more than minor symptoms should see a doctor right away.

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

In the home, carbon monoxide is most often produced by:

- Clogged chimneys
- Gas or wood-burning fire places
- Cracked or loose furnace exchanges
- Portable kerosene or gas heaters
- Operating a grill or barbecue indoors (including garages, tents, cabins or basements)
- Space heaters
- Leaving a car running in the garage, even if the garage door is open

All homes should have a carbon monoxide detector placed at bed level near sleeping areas. Additional detectors should be put on each floor of the house and near living areas.

Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors should be placed near the ceiling to ensure smoke is detected. A detector should not be placed within 15 inches of heating or cooking appliances or in a humid area, such as the bathroom.

If your detector begins to sound—

- Everyone should leave the building.
- Go to a doctor right away if anyone has had moderate or severe symptoms, has a history of heart problems, is pregnant, or if an infant has been exposed.
- Call your local gas company, fire department or appliance repair service to come and find the source of the carbon monoxide.

DO NOT GO BACK INSIDE until the source of carbon monoxide has been identified and shut off or repaired.

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

If you have questions about **carbon monoxide** please call us. Don't wait for symptoms to appear!

Specially trained pharmacists and nurses are available 24/7 to assist with your emergency and answer your questions.

Copy in this fact sheet has been adapted from: **CDC.gov**

For more information, please refer to our website:

OklahomaPoison.org