

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas, yet very toxic to humans. It consists of one [carbon](#) atom and one [oxygen](#) atom. Carbon monoxide is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of Carbon monoxide produced is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of Carbon monoxide can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from Carbon monoxide poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances.

MAKE SURE TO INSTALL YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR CORRECTLY:

- Install UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved Carbon Monoxide detectors in your home.
- Place at least one UL listed carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal outside individual bedrooms, especially within sleeping areas.
- Do not install a detector in a place that is near vents, flues or chimneys, or in the kitchen.
- Do not place your detector near paint or paint thinner fumes or within 5 feet of any household chemicals.
- Avoid placing your detector directly on top of or directly across from fuel-burning appliances. These appliances will emit some Carbon Monoxide when initially turned-on.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully before installing a Carbon Monoxide detector.
- Test Carbon Monoxide alarms monthly if your detector is wired directly into your home's electrical system or weekly if it operates off of a battery.
- Make sure you replace the battery at least once a year and clean the alarms as indicated in the manufacturer's use and care booklet. A good reminder is to replace the battery at the start and end of day-light savings time.
- Never allow anyone to "borrow" the battery from your detector. Like any appliance or power tool, a Carbon Monoxide alarm can not work unless it has a functioning power source.

KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ALARM:

- ✓ Immediately evacuate the house and call the fire department immediately if anyone in the home is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning -- headache, dizziness or other flu-like symptoms. If no one is experiencing any poisoning symptoms. Call a qualified repair technician to inspect your heating system and appliances as soon as possible.
- ✓ Do not operate any fuel-burning appliances until you clearly identified the source of the problem and had an expert check out the heating system. Never ignore an alarm.