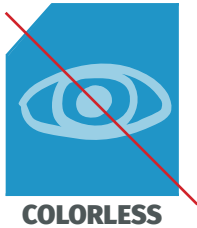


Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Killer

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING:



Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Many household items including gas and oil-burning furnaces, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poison gas. Following these important steps can keep your family safe.

HOW TO PREVENT CO POISONING IN MY HOME

- Install battery-operated CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.
- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly.
- Never use a gas oven for heating your home
- Have your furnace inspected every year.
- Never let a car idle in the garage
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:

Low to moderate CO poisoning:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

High level CO poisoning:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Death

Protect your family