

# CARBON MONOXIDE DO'S AND DON'TS

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a tasteless, odorless, and colorless gas known as the “silent killer.” Each year, more than **400 Americans** die from unintentional CO poisoning, **more than 20,000** visit the emergency room and **more than 4,000** are hospitalized due to CO poisoning.

CO is produced by common household appliances. When not properly ventilated, carbon monoxide emitted by these appliances can build up.

**Anyone can be at risk for carbon monoxide exposure.**



# DO'S

- ✓ Purchase and install a CO detector that meets UL standards.
- ✓ Have a heating professional inspect, clean, and adjust your fireplace, woodstove, and gas appliances and chimneys every fall before the start of the home heating season.
- ✓ Read and follow all instructions that accompany fuel-burning devices.
- ✓ Pay attention to symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, etc.
  - especially if more than one person is feeling sick.



# DON'TS

- ✗ Ever cook or heat a grill indoors – even if you put it inside the fireplace.
- ✗ Run vehicles in the garage – even if the door is open. CO can accumulate quickly and enter your home.
- ✗ Use fuel-powered machines or tools in building or semi-closed spaces.
- ✗ Use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.
- ✗ Use an un-vented kerosene space heater.
- ✗ Close the damper to the fireplace unless the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.



**IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING, LEAVE THE  
AFFECTED AREA RIGHT AWAY,  
CALL 911 OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.**

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