

## What about carbon monoxide detectors?

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends consumers purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors that sound an alarm when the level of carbon monoxide is high enough to be dangerous. (UL2034)

Each home should have at least one carbon monoxide detector outside each bedroom.

At no time should a CO detector be seen as a replacement for proper use and maintenance of your fuel-burning equipment.

## Carbon monoxide season

	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Pool heaters	●			
Furnaces		●	●	●
Charcoal grills	●	●	●	●
Boat exhaust	●	●		●
Auto exhaust	●	●	●	●
Wood-burning stoves		●	●	●
Space heaters		●	●	●
Chimney problems		●	●	●
Unvented appliances	●	●	●	●
Improper appliance maintenance	●	●	●	●
Heating with a stove		●	●	●
Industrial forklifts	●	●	●	●

## What should I do if I suspect carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Get into fresh air immediately.
- Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.



Wisconsin Poison Center provides 24-hour, toll-free poison information for all Wisconsin residents.

Interpreters are able to help all non-English speaking callers.

For hearing impaired,  
TTY (414) 266-2542



## Take control of carbon monoxide in your home

Accidents are 100% preventable.



Wisconsin  
Poison Center  
Serving people of all ages.

PO Box 1997  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1997

1-800-222-1222  
[wisconsinpoison.org](http://wisconsinpoison.org)



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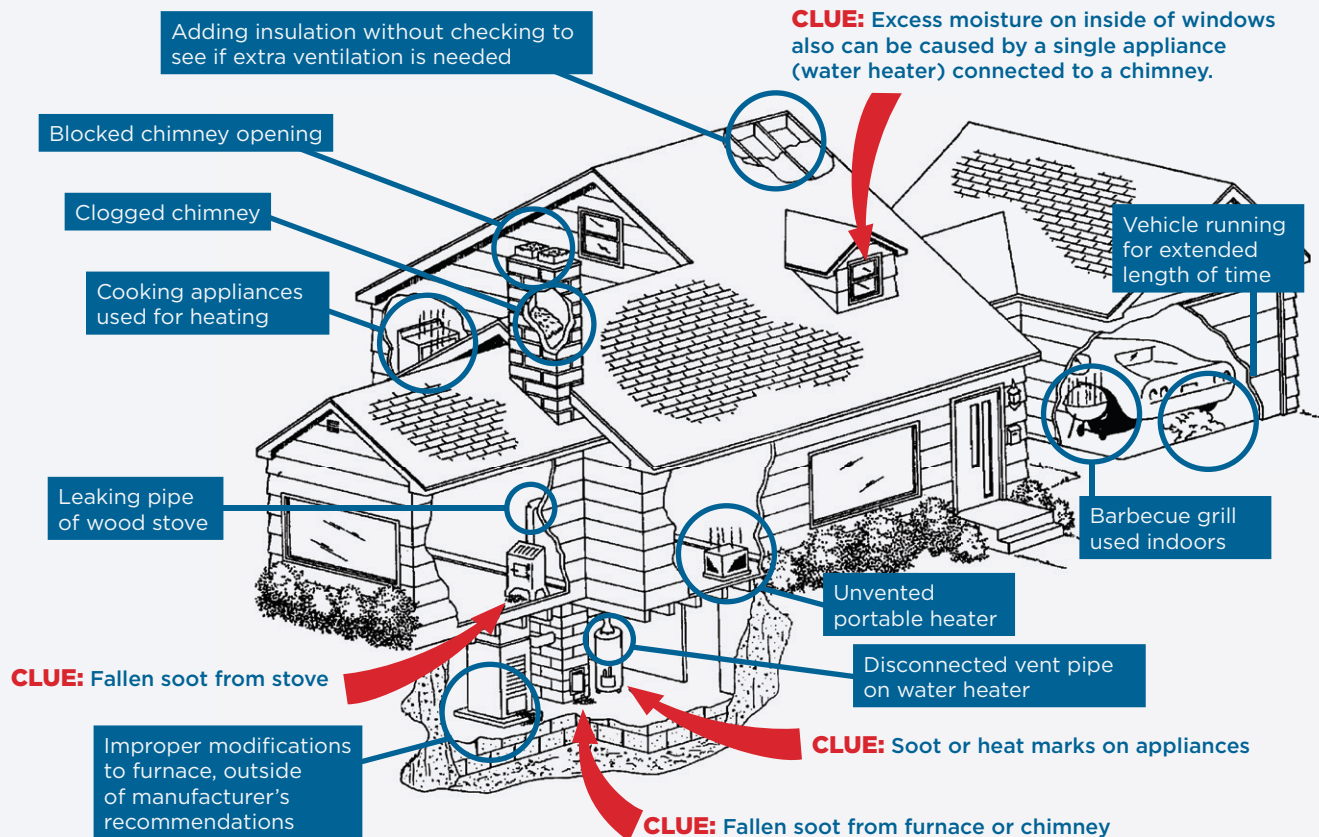
# What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. It is produced when fuels such as gasoline, fuel oil, propane, kerosene, natural gas, coal and wood do not have enough oxygen to burn completely.

## Most common sources of carbon monoxide

CO is most commonly produced by equipment such as cars, furnaces and boilers that have not been properly maintained or serviced.

## Carbon monoxide sources in your home



## Causes of carbon monoxide poisoning

Inhaling smoke from fires is the most common form of CO poisoning. Cigarette smoke and car exhaust are the largest sources of frequent CO exposure.

## How to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

By taking the following steps, you can prevent CO poisoning:

- Have your car and all fuel-burning appliances in your home regularly inspected and maintained.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage.

- Keep your car's tailpipe clear of snow and other obstructions.
- Never burn a charcoal grill indoors or in a garage.
- Don't sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- Keep appliance exhaust vents clear of snow and ice.
- Don't use a gas oven to heat your home.
- Don't use gasoline-powered engines (for example, lawn mowers and snow blowers) in enclosed spaces, such as inside houses, garages and sheds.
- Keep all chimneys and flues free of waste and in proper working order.

## Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

Symptoms often are mistaken for those of the flu. They include:

- Severe headaches
- Vomiting
- Sleepiness
- Nausea
- Dizziness

Unlike flu symptoms, there is no fever with CO poisoning. Symptoms tend to clear up when people go outside and breathe fresh air. Children and the elderly may show symptoms earlier, and pregnant women are at a higher risk for CO poisoning.