

Take Control of Carbon Monoxide in Your Home

Accidents are 100% preventable

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.

What are the 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.

What are the leading 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.

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.

What should I do if I suspect carbon monoxide poisoning?

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

What are the 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.

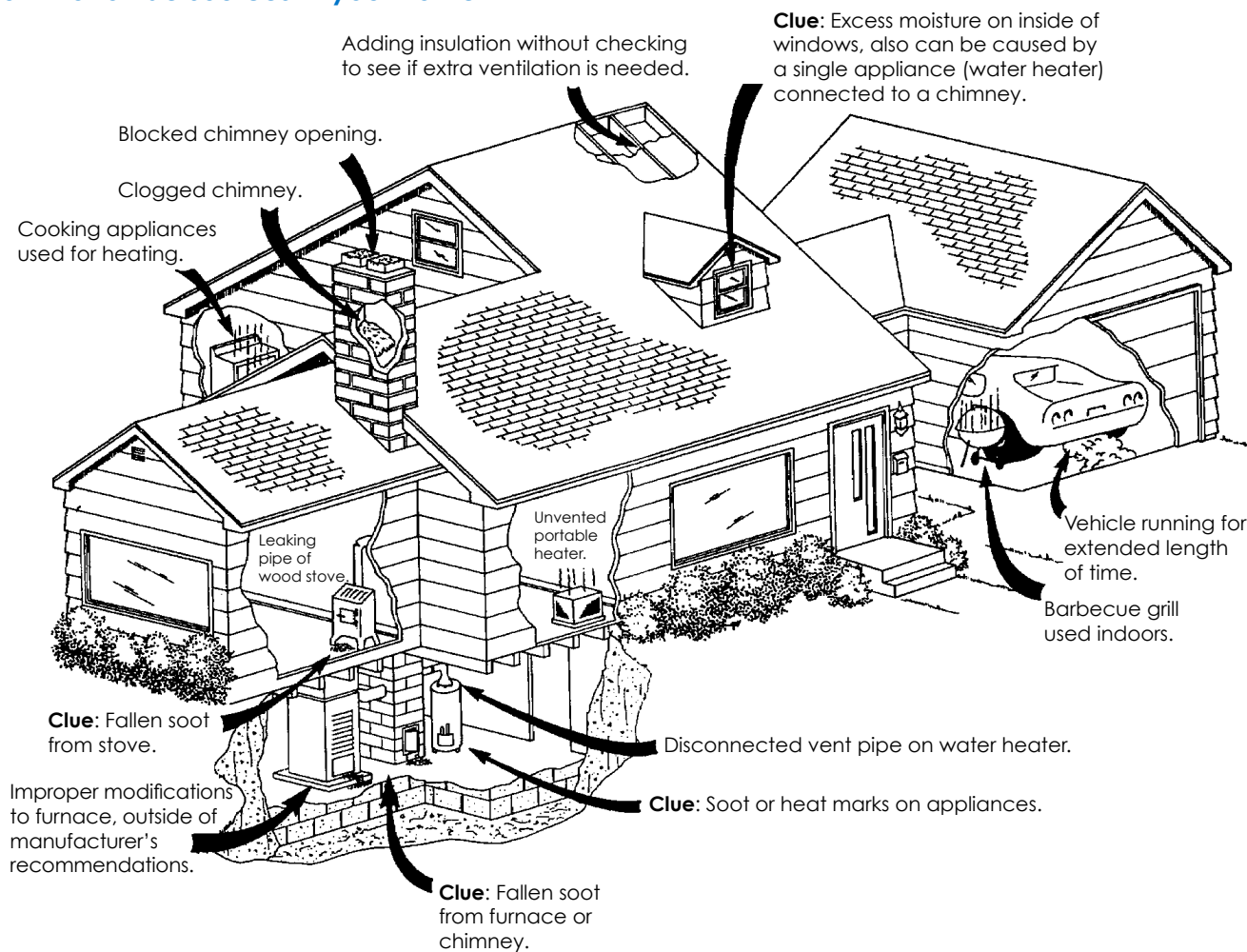
Carbon monoxide seasons

	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Pool heaters				
Charcoal grills		Furnaces		
Boat exhaust				
Auto exhaust				
		Wood-burning stoves		
		Space heaters		
		Chimney problems		
Unvented appliances				
Improper appliance maintenance				
		Heating with a stove		
Industrial forklifts				

How to prevent carbon monoxide 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 (lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.) in enclosed spaces, such as inside houses, garages, sheds, etc.
- Keep all chimneys and flues free of waste and in proper working order.

Carbon monoxide sources in your home



Call toll-free seven days a week
For hearing impaired: TTY (414) 266-2542

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

For poison education information, contact:
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Poison Center
Cathy Smith at csmith@chw.org or (414) 266-2630