

Carbon Monoxide in your Home

CO is a highly poisonous gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating. It's produced from burning fuels such as propane, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil, or wood. Carbon Monoxide keeps blood from absorbing oxygen into cells, tissue, and vital organs. It is often called the "silent killer" because it's so difficult to detect.

What is it? Signs of a leak

Any appliance or heat source that produces CO and is leaking or not properly vented can cause a build-up of CO in the home, creating high levels of carbon monoxide. This can lead to CO poisoning (when carbon monoxide builds up in your blood stream and your body replaces the oxygen in your red blood cells with carbon monoxide).

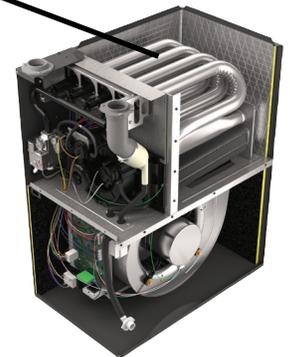
1. Excess moisture and condensation on windows, walls, and cold surfaces
2. Sooty or brownish-yellow stains around fuel-burning appliances
3. The lack of an upward draft in chimney flue
4. Fallen soot in fireplaces
5. Damaged or discolored bricks at the top of chimney
6. Rusting on flue pipes or appliance jacks
7. A pilot light that is frequently blowing out
8. A yellow burner flame instead of the usual clear blue flame (except in fireplaces, flames are yellow for aesthetics)

What causes it?

- Furnaces and boilers
- Leaks in chimneys
- Clothes dryers
- Water Heater
- Fireplaces (gas and wood burning)
- Gas stoves and ovens
- Motor vehicles
- Grills and lawn equipment
- Gas generators
- Tobacco smoke

Furnace

Cracks in the heat exchanger can cause carbon monoxide to escape into your home.



CO poisoning or the flu?



- You feel better when you are away from home.
- Everyone gets sick at the same time. (flu usually spreads from person to person)
- Family members most effected spend the most time in home.
- Indoor pets appear ill.
- Body aches and swollen lymph nodes, common with the flu and other infections are not present.
- Symptoms appear to get worse when using fuel-burning equipment.



Gas Water Heater

Neglected, improperly installed, or poorly vented gas water heaters can leak carbon monoxide.

Recommended lifespan of most CO alarms is 5 years



Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home

Carbon monoxide detectors alert you when CO is at a dangerous level in your home.



Lifespan of a NEST Protect alarm is 10+ years