



BUILDING A
SOLID INVESTMENT



CARBON MONOXIDE PREVENTION

Carbon Monoxide Definition

Colorless, odorless, highly poisonous gas that is produced by incomplete combustion. Also known as “coal gas.” Poisoning occurs when carbon monoxide (CO) interferes with the ability of the blood to carry oxygen to necessary organs in the body.

Source of Carbon Monoxide

- Automobile exhaust fumes
- Faulty stoves and heating systems
- Fires
- Cigarette smoke
- Wood burning stoves
- Kerosene Heaters
- Improperly ventilated water heaters and gas stoves
- Blocked or poorly maintained chimney flues

Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Low Levels of Exposure lead to symptoms such as shortness of breathe, watery eyes and mild nausea and headaches

Moderate Levels of Exposure lead to headaches, nausea, dizziness, lightheadedness

High Levels of Exposure lead to coma, convulsions, cardiac & respiratory failure *The appearance and severity of symptoms depends upon the amount of exposure, the concentration of CO in the air and the rate and intensity of the person’s breathing.

Those at Higher Risk of CO Poisoning: Infants, people with heart and lung disease or anemia

Statistics

1,500 Americans die each year from accidental exposure to CO and an additional 10,000 people seek medical attention after exposure to CO and recover. (Source: Journal of the American Medical Association.)

Prevention

- Install a carbon monoxide detector
- Have heating systems and appliances installed by a qualified installer
- Inspect and properly maintain heating systems, chimneys, and appliances
- Do not use a gas stove to heat a home
- Do not leave vehicles running inside the garage

The average CO level in homes without gas stoves vary from 0.5 - 5.0 parts per million (ppm). Levels near properly adjusted stoves are often 5.0 - 15.0 ppm. Poorly adjusted stoves will have a level of 30 ppm or higher. The average CO detector will sound an alarm at 35 ppm.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Make sure you test your CO detector once a month
- Replace your detector every 2 years
- Purchase a CO detector with a “low level” indicator

Types of CO Detectors:

- Battery operated
- Wall plug-ins
- Tablets that change color in the presence of CO

Features of CO Detectors:

- Sound alarm
- Visual alarm (for hearing impaired)
- Contacts the fire department
- Stores memory of CO levels
- Low-level indicator - a two-stage alarm that provides a warning signal at the detection of low levels of CO and sounds a full alarm at dangerous levels
- The cost of full-featured detectors start around \$25 and can be found at most home improvement stores, or ask a member of the Granite Ridge Builders staff for more information.

Did You Know?

Your gas fireplace is safe! The ventless gas fireplace installed in your new home only releases 10 - 12.0 ppm, less released than the average new gas range in your kitchen!