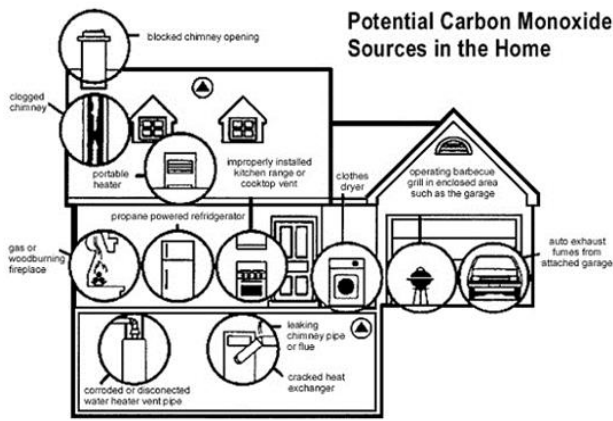


# Carbon Monoxide: What you need to know

Carbon monoxide is a gas that has no odor, color, or taste. You cannot see or smell it, but it can be very dangerous to your health and even fatal, as seen in Duluth, MN in early December 2014. Dangerous situations can occur when carbon monoxide is trapped in poorly ventilated, contained spaces where people are located. If there is too much carbon monoxide in the air you are breathing, your ability to absorb oxygen can be diminished, resulting in serious tissue damage.

## Signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include:

Carbon monoxide poisoning can be especially dangerous for people who are sleeping.



- ✓ Car and truck engines

## Various appliances fueled by wood or gas produce carbon monoxide, including:

- ✓ Fuel-burning space heaters
- ✓ Furnaces
- ✓ Charcoal grills
- ✓ Cooking ranges
- ✓ Water heaters
- ✓ Fireplaces
- ✓ Portable generators
- ✓ Wood-burning stoves

Normally the amount of carbon monoxide produced by these sources isn't cause for concern. But if appliances aren't kept in good working order or if they're used in a closed or partially closed space — such as using a charcoal grill indoors or running your car in a closed garage — the carbon monoxide can build to dangerous levels.

## What can you do?

1. Ensure that appliances are in good working order.
2. Check that you have a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway near every area of your home that is used for sleeping. Make sure furniture or draperies do not cover the alarm. Test alarm to make sure it is in good working order.
3. Make sure that you have good air ventilation.
4. Get your heating system professionally inspected and serviced every year.
5. In an attached garage, even if the door is open, do not leave a car running.
6. Do not operate a portable generator or any other gasoline engine-powered tool in or near any house, garage or other enclosed space.

