

Live Safely with Natural Gas

Carbon Monoxide - What you need
to know about the silent killer





Almost every home uses some form of fuel, whether it's natural gas, oil, propane, kerosene or wood, to power appliances. If these appliances aren't installed, maintained, used or vented properly, they can produce carbon monoxide (CO) – a colorless, odorless and poisonous gas. Known as the “silent killer,” CO can cause serious illness or death if inhaled in large concentrations for even a short period of time.

Symptoms of CO Poisoning:

Dizziness – Fatigue – Headache – Nausea – Irregular breathing – Tightness of chest

If you suspect CO poisoning

Immediately evacuate the premises and call 911.

If the CO alarm sounds, but no one is showing symptoms of CO poisoning, open windows, turn off all potential CO sources, and leave. Have a qualified technician inspect your appliances, detectors and chimneys to make sure they're operating correctly.

HOW TO PREVENT CO POISONING

- Install CO detectors in your home. Check the batteries every month and replace them once a year.
- NEVER use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- DON'T use barbecue grills, portable generators, or kerosene or propane auxiliary heaters indoors.
- Have a qualified technician inspect and clean all heating systems, vents, chimneys and flues annually.
- Be sure appliances, including portable generators, are properly installed and working to manufacturers' specifications and local building codes.
- Keep your furnace or boiler's air intake supply clear of obstructions. If your equipment is in a separate room, leave the door open to make sure it's louvered or has adequately sized ventilating grills.
- If switching from oil to natural gas, be sure to have the chimney cleaned and inspected.

For more information
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