



Children's Health
Education Center™

A member of Children's Hospital and Health System.



To learn more about keeping your family
safe, contact Safe Kids Wisconsin:

(715) 843-1890

BlueKids.org

Carbon monoxide safety

More than 15,000 people are treated for unintentional exposure to carbon monoxide and more than 25 children ages 0 – 14 die from unintentional poisoning every year in the United States. In fact, carbon monoxide, or CO, is the leading cause of unintentional poisoning-related deaths across all age groups.

Carbon monoxide is dangerous because it's a colorless and odorless gas. It's produced by generators, portable heaters, stoves, fireplaces, water heaters and other items that burn fuel.

CO poisoning symptoms

Symptoms often are mistaken for the flu and include headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, confusion, dizziness and blurred vision. In severe cases, a person may lose consciousness or die.

If a CO leak is suspected get out as quickly as possible. Call 911 or the fire department from outside your house.

Protect your child from carbon monoxide poisoning

Follow these tips to help prevent CO poisoning in your home

- Install a CO detector near every sleeping area and on every floor of the house. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for exact placement as this may vary.
- If your CO detector is a plug-in model, make sure it has a battery backup.
- Test alarms every month and replace batteries twice a year.
- Vacuum the alarm cover once a month to remove accumulated dust. Do not use chemicals or detergents to clean the unit as they could cause permanent damage.
- Do not paint the unit.
- CO detectors need to be replaced every five to seven years. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for life expectancy of your particular detector.
- Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected each year by a technician to ensure they are working properly.
- Be sure to have chimneys cleaned and inspected yearly for proper ventilation.
- Never use a stove to heat your living space.
- Never use a grill, generator or camp stove inside your home, garage or near a window.
- Do not leave a car running in a garage. Even if the garage door is open, CO can build up quickly. If the garage is attached, it may seep into the house.

Color
the items that
produce carbon
monoxide!

