

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is **invisible!** The colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas is a byproduct of burning organic fuels.

Sources:

- Household appliances and equipment fueled with gas, oils, coal, kerosene or wood.
- Examples: furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, cars, charcoal grills, lanterns, clothes dryers, ovens, fireplaces, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.

Causes:

- Malfunctioning appliance or equipment
- Worn or faulty parts
- Improper venting

Symptoms:

- Early symptoms often mimic the flu – headache, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness, and loss of muscle control.
- Severe symptoms – convulsions, unconsciousness, and possible death.

Prevention:

- Install a carbon monoxide detector.
- Clean and inspect fuel-burning appliances. Use a professional!
- Check for proper ventilation.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Leave your home right away!
- Call 911 or the Connecticut Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222).
- Call the local fire department to test for carbon monoxide.

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- 24 Hours a Day
 - Free and Confidential
 - Staffed by Poison Experts
 - Interpreters Available in All Languages
 - TDD # 1-866-218-5372

