

Carbon Monoxide: Fight the Invisible Killer

CO AT HOME

Here are some tips to prevent dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in your home:

- ◆ Have fuel-burning appliances professionally installed and professionally inspected at the beginning of every heating season.
- ◆ Whenever possible, purchase appliances that vent their exhaust to the outside.
- ◆ When using a fireplace, make sure that the flue is fully open.
- ◆ Use the proper grade of fuel in kerosene space heaters.
- ◆ Always burn charcoal in a well-ventilated area, never inside a home, garage or recreational vehicle.
- ◆ Never run your car in the garage, even with the door open.
- ◆ Never sleep in a room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- ◆ Never use ovens or gas ranges to heat your home.
- ◆ Have your heating system, chimneys and flues cleaned by professionals.
- ◆ Make sure that your furnace has an adequate intake of outside air.
- ◆ Never use small gasoline-powered engines in enclosed spaces.

Don't let this "silent killer" attack you. Carbon monoxide detectors are great to have as a backup, especially near sleeping areas in homes, but they should never replace proper use and maintenance of your fuel-burning appliances. Equally important is remembering the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning so you can get yourself or any victim to fresh air before it's too late.

