

# It's no puzzle

how to protect your home from deadly carbon monoxide poisoning

*Sources of deadly carbon monoxide (CO) include furnaces, gas stoves and ovens, kerosene heaters, generators, vehicles and any other items that burn fuel. Nationally, malfunctioning gas furnaces are the number-one cause of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. When gas-burning appliances are maintained and used correctly, they can be perfectly safe.*

*It is when they malfunction or are used inappropriately, such as without adequate ventilation, that they become dangerous. To prevent carbon monoxide from affecting those you love, here are some tips:*



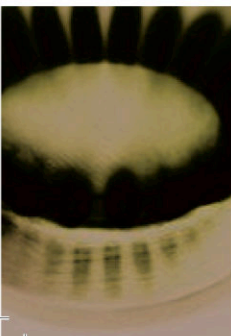
## **Furnaces**

Malfunctioning home furnaces cause up to 18.5% of all accidental carbon monoxide poisonings in the United States. Make sure all furnace work is done by a licensed heating contractor. Get your furnace inspected each fall before the winter heating season to make sure it is operating properly.



## **Clothes Dryers**

If your clothes dryer is heated by gas, make sure it is properly vented to the outdoors. Venting should be a hard-sided dryer vent, not flexible tubing. Make sure the vent does not become plugged with lint.



## **Stoves**

Make sure your stove burners are burning cleanly. The flame should be blue, not orange. *Never use the stove or oven for heating!*

## **Cars**

Never warm up your car in the garage, even with the door open. The fumes can build up in the garage. If the garage is attached, fumes can seep into the home. Always warm up your car outdoors.

## **Kerosene Heaters**


These heaters are designed to be used with ventilation and must be exceptionally well maintained. They are not recommended for heating homes. Consider other heat sources, such as portable electric heaters.

## **Generators**

Never run a generator in your home, garage or basement. If you are concerned about theft of an outdoor generator, invest in a lock.

## **Gas Grills**

Never barbecue in the garage. Keep your gas grill ten feet (10') away from open doors and windows and out from under overhangs.



# A simple alarm could save you and your family

## Carbon Monoxide Alarms

All that is needed to detect carbon monoxide is a simple carbon monoxide alarm. These alarms can be purchased for as little as \$20.

Carbon monoxide alarms operate much like fire detectors. Battery-powered alarms will operate even if there is a power outage. It is not necessary to buy the deluxe model or an alarm that measures multiple things like smoke and natural gas. An inexpensive carbon monoxide alarm will do.

The Healthy Homes Coalition works to make sure that households with children have a working carbon monoxide detector as program funds permit. Call the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan at (616) 241-3300 to learn what services are currently funded and being offered.

According to [www.carbonmonoxidekills.com](http://www.carbonmonoxidekills.com), "proper placement of a carbon monoxide detector is important. If you are installing only one carbon monoxide detector, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends it be located near the sleeping area, where it can wake you if you are asleep. Additional detectors on every level and in every bedroom of a home provide extra protection."

"Homeowners should remember not to install carbon monoxide detectors directly above or beside fuel-burning appliances, as appliances may emit a small amount of carbon monoxide upon start-up. A detector should not be placed within fifteen feet of heating or cooking appliances or in or near very humid areas such as bathrooms."



For more information, contact the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan at (616) 241-3300 or Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids at (616) 391-SAFE

or visit any of these sites:

[www.carbonmonoxidekills.com](http://www.carbonmonoxidekills.com)

[www.healthyhomescoalition.org/carbon-monoxide](http://www.healthyhomescoalition.org/carbon-monoxide)

[www.grandrapids safekids.org](http://www.grandrapids safekids.org)

**Healthy Homes**  
Coalition of West Michigan

(616) 241-3300  
[www.healthyhomescoalition.org](http://www.healthyhomescoalition.org)



Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids  
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