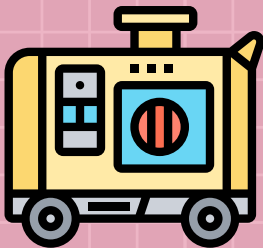


# What is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and can kill you?

Carbon monoxide poisoning kills more than 400 Americans each year and sickens many thousands more. When carbon monoxide builds up in the blood the body replaces the oxygen in the red blood cells with carbon monoxide.



Burning fuels, including gas, wood, propane or charcoal, make carbon monoxide. Causes of poisoning can include running generators or working on lawnmowers or other engines indoors. Breathing in smoke during a fire also can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Symptoms include Headache, dizziness, feeling or being sick, weakness, confusion, chest and muscle pain, shortness of breath, rapid heartbeat, personality changes, fatigue, clumsiness or difficulty walking. Most at risk are unborn babies, infants and children, and older adults.



**PREVENTION:** • Use gas appliances only as intended.

• Open the garage door before starting the car.

• Keep fireplaces/wood stoves in good condition.

• Have working CO detectors throughout home.

• Operate portable generators at least 20' from the home.

Anyone exposed to carbon monoxide needs to get into fresh air and seek medical care right away. Call emergency medical services (EMS) or dial 911 right away for someone who can't respond.



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