

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR



A carbon monoxide detector is a device that detects the presence of carbon monoxide (CO), and warns you when the CO amount is too high.

Carbon monoxide is produced by incomplete combustion, is a very dangerous gas. It is responsible for about 500 deaths in the US every year and is known as a “silent killer” because it is colorless and odorless. The most common sources of Carbon Monoxide in homes are appliances like furnaces, stoves and water heaters (that operate by burning fossil fuels such as natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas). Other sources include vehicle exhaust, fuel burning cooking appliances, charcoal grills, garages or unventilated areas.

Carbon Monoxide detectors can be mounted on the wall or ceiling or plugged into an electrical outlet. There are also combination detectors, that detect both smoke and carbon monoxide.

Make sure that your carbon monoxide detector is UL certified (Underwriter Laboratories). The Consumer Protection Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends detectors with warnings that become louder and faster as the level of the gas in the space increases.

Tools required : Drill, Screwdriver, Screws, Hammer, Pencil

Materials Required : Carbon Monoxide detector

Estimated time taken: 30 minutes

Project cost: \$20 - \$60

Estimated energy savings / Payback period: NA

INSTALLATION

Install a carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your living space and one for each sleeping area. The CPSC recommends placing the unit near bedrooms and near to furnaces or burn-fuel appliances (preferably close to the ceiling).

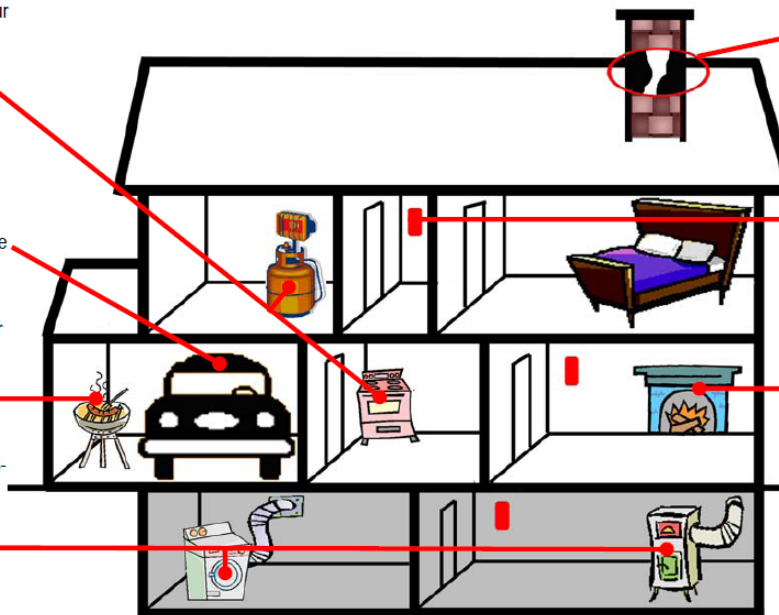
Some Common Sources of Carbon Monoxide in Your Home

DO NOT heat your home with a gas oven or use a propane/gas heater indoors.

DO NOT leave your car running inside your garage, even if the door is open.

DO NOT use your gas or charcoal grill inside your garage or house.

Do have your gas- and wood-powered appliances inspected yearly by a professional.



DO have your chimney and vents cleaned, inspected and serviced by a professional before the heating season begins each year.

DO install a carbon monoxide detector outside your bedroom area and on each floor of your home.

DO NOT close the damper to your fireplace until the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.

Image from the Michigan Department of Community Health

HOW TO

Step 1: Make sure to disconnect the electricity if you are installing an outlet power unit

Step 2: Take your product out of its packaging and carefully read the installation instructions

Step 3: Choose where to install the sensor based on the recommendations and image above

Step 4: If it's an AC outlet powered unit, just plug it into the wall

Step 5: If it's a battery powered unit, it should come with screws and screw anchors

Step 6: Line up the unit with the wall marking with a pencil where the screws need to go

Step 7: Use your drill to make a hole right over the marks. Make sure that your holes are no bigger than your screw anchors

Step 8: Place your screw anchors into the wall with a hammer

Step 9: Install the batteries in the detector and then place it on the wall

Step 10: Test it to know if it works and how it sounds

Step 11: Mark on your calendar to test your detector and replace the batteries every six months

For a video click [here](#)

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, treat the alarm seriously and leave the home immediately. Dial 911 if anyone is feeling sick or if show signs of headache, dizziness, confusion. Also call your gas company (an emergency number) to test your installation before to back onto your home.

Sources: www.ehow.com / www.homesafe.com / Michigan Department of Community Health