

**.IF YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR  
DOESN'T WORK PROPERLY THE  
SILENCE... COULD BE DEADLY!**

Here is the proper way to care for your  
Smoke Detector.



**1. TEST**

Test your smoke detector at  
least once a month. Push the  
test button & hold for 3-5  
seconds.



**2. CLEAN**







Clean your detector at least  
once a year. Dust with a  
vacuum cleaner.



**3. REPLACE**

Replace the battery twice a  
year. Remember: Change  
your clocks... Change your  
BATTERY.

**Facts about Smoke detectors**

-  In Ohio, there is a residential fire every half hour
-  Over 75% of fire deaths occur in residences
-  The installation of just one smoke detector doubles your chances of escaping a nighttime fire.
-  When you purchase a smoke detector, be sure that it contains the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.
-  UL requires that smoke detector with its listing contain detailed instructions on installation and maintenance.
-  All smoke detectors have a 10 year life expectancy. Test your detector monthly. If it fails to operate after testing or changing the battery, replace the detector.

**Any questions about our Smoke Detector program or scheduling an appointment to have your batteries changed please contact Concord Fire Department**

**440-354-7504**

**Concord Fire Department  
Smoke Detector Program**



**Carbon Monoxide &  
Smoke Detector**

**Information you should  
Know**

# CARBON MONOXIDE THE SILENT KILLER IN YOUR HOME

## Q & A about CO Detectors

### What is carbon monoxide (CO)?

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that can kill you when breathed. You can't SEE it, SMELL it, or TASTE it. It is sometimes called the "silent killer" because it sneaks up on you and takes your life without warning.

### Why is it deadly?

When we breathe air containing CO, it is absorbed through the bloodstream; it displaces oxygen; and it inhibits the blood's ability to carry oxygen to vital organs such as the heart and brain.

### Where does CO come from?

CO is a by-product of incomplete combustion. Any fuel-burning device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of CO gas. Examples of devices commonly used around the house include:

- Fuel fired furnaces (non-electric)
- Gas water heaters
- Fireplaces and wood stoves
- Gas Stoves
- Non-electric space heaters
- Gas dryers
- Charcoal grills
- Lawnmowers, snow blowers, etc.
- Automobiles

### What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The symptoms of CO poisoning are flu-like & include headache, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, & confusion. Prolonged exposure can result in vomiting, blackouts and eventually brain damage or death. The amount of CO inhaled and how long you are exposed to it affects you.

### How can I tell if CO is present in my home?

Since CO is colorless, odorless, & tasteless, the best way to protect your family is to install a CO detector.

### What kind of detector should I get?

There are a variety of CO detectors available. When choosing a detector, you should consider the location, the ease of installation, and the power source of the alarm. CO detectors, like smoke detectors, are available in plug-in, battery-operated or hardwire models.

### What can be done to prevent CO poisoning?

- Make sure appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions & by professionals.
- Have the heating system inspected and serviced at least once a year.
- Make sure chimneys & vents are checked for blockages, corrosion, and loose connections.
- Open flues completely when fireplaces are in use.
- Use proper fuel in kerosene space heaters
- Never burn charcoal or a BBQ grill inside a home or enclosed area.
- Never leave a car or mower running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room where people are sleeping
- Never use the kitchen range for heating the house.

### Where should CO detectors be installed?

Carbon monoxide is almost identical in weight to normal air and thus will mix freely with air. For this reason alarms may be installed at any level in a room.

If the CO detector is to be ceiling mounted, it should be installed away from any existing smoke detector in order to be able to distinguish between a CO detector and a smoke alarm.

### Where should CO detectors be installed? (Continued)

Every home should be equipped with at least one CO detector near the sleeping area of the home. For maximum protection, additional detectors should be located on each level of your home.

### What should I do if the CO alarm sounds?

Stay calm! Leave all doors and windows closed and do not attempt to air out your house. Keeping the house closed up allows for a more accurate reading if there is any buildup. Call 911 and evacuate the house to a safe area and wait for the arrival of the fire department.

Things to consider and think about if your CO detector has activated and you are waiting for the fire department;

- Is anyone feeling ill?
- What symptoms are being experienced?
- How long have the symptoms been felt? (Ex: minutes, hours, days)
- How long have you been in the house prior to the alarm activation? (Ex: just got home, hours )

### What to expect when the fire department arrives?

- They will arrive and check for illnesses.
- They will meter the house checking for any gas or CO readings.
- If readings are found, they will determine the cause and attempt to isolate the problem.

### Safety Tips

When you check your smoke detector check your CO detector also.

A CO detector does not replace a smoke detector. Smoke detectors sounds before a CO detector can react, allowing for more time to escape.

Have a plan of escape in the event of an Emergency.