

# Carbon Monoxide

## A Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that can be deadly. It is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels, such as gas, oil, wood, and coal. Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs when the gas binds to hemoglobin in the blood, preventing it from carrying oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, and confusion. In severe cases, it can lead to unconsciousness and death. Carbon monoxide detectors are essential for home safety, as they can alert you to the presence of the gas before it becomes a life-threatening emergency.

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**Where does carbon monoxide come from  
and what can I do to protect myself and my  
family?**

## Quick facts about carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels. It is a leading cause of poisoning and death in the United States. In 2005, approximately 1,500 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning, and over 100,000 were hospitalized. The cost of carbon monoxide poisoning is estimated to be over \$5 billion annually. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause a wide range of symptoms, from headache and dizziness to unconsciousness and death. The symptoms are often nonspecific and can be mistaken for other conditions. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a medical emergency, and prompt treatment is essential. Treatment typically involves the administration of 100% oxygen, and in severe cases, hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable, and several measures can be taken to reduce the risk of exposure. These include installing carbon monoxide detectors, ensuring proper ventilation, and avoiding the use of portable generators and other fuel-burning devices in enclosed spaces. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious and preventable health problem. Awareness of the symptoms and risks of carbon monoxide poisoning is essential for early detection and treatment.

## References

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## Symptoms and PPMs

Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. In severe cases, symptoms can include unconsciousness and death. The symptoms are often nonspecific and can be mistaken for other conditions. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a medical emergency, and prompt treatment is essential. Treatment typically involves the administration of 100% oxygen, and in severe cases, hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable, and several measures can be taken to reduce the risk of exposure. These include installing carbon monoxide detectors, ensuring proper ventilation, and avoiding the use of portable generators and other fuel-burning devices in enclosed spaces. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious and preventable health problem. Awareness of the symptoms and risks of carbon monoxide poisoning is essential for early detection and treatment.