





**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 another 15,000 were hospitalized. The cost of carbon monoxide poisoning is estimated to be \$5 billion annually. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause a wide range of symptoms, including headache, dizziness, weakness, and confusion. In severe cases, it can lead to coma and death. Carbon monoxide poisoning is often mistaken for the flu or other common illnesses. It is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and to seek medical attention immediately if you suspect you or someone else may be affected. Carbon monoxide detectors are available for home use and can help to prevent poisoning. If you have a gas furnace, water heater, or other gas-burning appliance, it is important to have them inspected and serviced regularly by a qualified professional. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a preventable tragedy, and taking steps to reduce the risk of exposure can save lives.

## References

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## Symptoms and PPMs

Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, and confusion. In severe cases, it can lead to coma and death. Carbon monoxide poisoning is often mistaken for the flu or other common illnesses. It is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and to seek medical attention immediately if you suspect you or someone else may be affected. Carbon monoxide detectors are available for home use and can help to prevent poisoning. If you have a gas furnace, water heater, or other gas-burning appliance, it is important to have them inspected and serviced regularly by a qualified professional. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a preventable tragedy, and taking steps to reduce the risk of exposure can save lives.