

How can you reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in your home?

- Your heating system should undergo annual maintenance from a licensed heating contractor, preferably before the heating season begins, to make sure it is in good working order.
- Annually check your chimney or vent pipes for blockage. If a blockage exists, contact a professional chimney sweep immediately.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home, and make sure they are working properly.
- Make sure your home is adequately ventilated, particularly if you have insulated your home, had major renovations done or have enclosed your heating system.
- In the winter, clear snow and ice from appliance and equipment vents.

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If you suspect a gas leak, leave and call **877-944-5325**.

For more information, visit Eversource.com.

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Important Information About Carbon Monoxide

What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself and Your Family



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Whether you heat your home with oil, natural gas, propane, coal or wood, your heating system can produce carbon monoxide (CO) if it is not working properly, or if it is inadequately vented.

Carbon monoxide is also produced from internal combustion devices such as cars and small gasoline engines.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless but very toxic. Signs that carbon monoxide may be present in your home include stuffy, stale or smelly air; very high humidity; or soot coming from a fireplace or heating system.

What should you do if you suspect the presence of carbon monoxide?

- Alert your family, employees or others in the area and exit immediately.
- Open the windows and doors on your way out, if you are able to do so.
- If carbon monoxide is detected by your alarm, exit the area immediately, then call 911 to notify your local fire department and call Eversource at 877-944-5325.
- Have your heating equipment inspected by a licensed heating contractor to make sure that it is in good working order.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often confused with those of influenza, and the highest incidence of poisoning occurs during the flu season.

Symptoms include:

headaches

dizziness

nausea

unclear thinking

shortness of breath

weakness

vision problems

loss of muscle control

High concentrations of carbon monoxide can lead to unconsciousness, brain damage or death. However, a victim may not experience ANY of these symptoms, or only one or a few of the symptoms. You should suspect the presence of carbon monoxide if symptoms tend to disappear when you leave home.