

## Protect Your Home from Carbon Monoxide Dangers

The National Center for Health Statistics says Carbon Monoxide is to blame for 3500 accidental deaths and suicides each year in the United States alone. It is the Number 1 cause of all deaths by poisoning!

The cause of Carbon Monoxide poisoning is often a faulty fuel-burning furnace, oven, water heater, space heater, wood stove, or fireplace. The best way to reduce your risk is to maintain those appliances.

A device to measure the air is an essential backup and you should have at least one Carbon Monoxide detector, preferably in a hallway or sleeping area. If the alarm does go off and you're feeling sick (flu- like symptoms), get immediately out of the house and call the fire department or your fuel company. If the alarm sounds and you don't feel ill, shut off the possible sources of Carbon Monoxide and ventilate the house as quickly as possible. Still call a qualified technician or your fire department for further advice as to how to handle your respective situation.

### Remember:

- Never obstruct the airflow from the flue rising out of any gas-burning appliance like a water heater or furnace.
- Let the gas-breathing appliance breath in and out. Never obstruct the fresh air openings (usually high and low) which allow air to get to the water heater or furnace. Store items away from these air openings.
- Never use a barbecue or wood or charcoal burning appliance indoors for heat or cooking.
- Never use a non-vented propane space heater indoors.
- Get a permit when replacing a water heater or furnace to make sure that the job is done right!