

TYPES OF CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

BIOMIMETIC - uses a cell containing a synthetic version of hemoglobin which absorbs CO. Alarm sounds when levels reach a set level.
Unit lasts 10 years BUT battery pack/sensor must be replaced every 3 yrs.

SEMICONDUCTOR - measures CO level on an electronic sensor. Plugs in to outlet.
Good for 5 to 10 years.

ELECTROCHEMICAL - uses an electro-chemical sensor.
Logs 8 days of CO levels.
Has 3 response levels.
Good for 5 years.

MAKE SURE DETECTOR HAS A U.L. LABEL.

INSTALLING CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon Monoxide gas is lighter than air so it rises.

It is important to install a detector in the hallway outside of the sleeping area(s). Naturally, sleeping areas in different parts of the house will require their own detectors. A minimum of one outside the bedrooms is the law in R.I.

Since your heating appliance is a big source of possible CO emissions, it is recommended (but not the law) that you install a detector about 15 to 20 feet from your furnace.

Do NOT install a detector in the kitchen, garage, or unventilated rooms. Also, stay away from air vents & fans.

FALSE READINGS - can occur from humidity, very hot or cold temperatures, and chemical fumes (incl. cleaning products).

VERY IMPORTANT

Some detectors take UP TO 48 hours in fresh air to completely clear after an activation. Most models need at least 2 hours to clear properly.

C.O. detectors (and smoke detectors) need to be cleaned regularly by vacuuming the air vents. This prevents dust and/or little spiders from collecting on the sensor and causing a false alarm, OR, preventing a real alarm.

TEST your C.O. detector (and your smoke detectors) weekly - why have them if they don't work?????

Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Have your furnace serviced by a professional, yearly.

On nice days in the cold season - open your windows to air the house out, preventing a gradual buildup of C.O.

Use the gas stove for cooking only, NEVER for heating.

NEVER use kerosene space heaters unless in well ventilated areas (open the window a crack).

Do not use gas grills inside the house/garage.

Have your chimney inspected for cracked flues, blockages and crumbling mortar.

NEVER RUN THE CAR IN THE GARAGE - even with the garage door open, because the emissions linger for hours.