

NYS Division of Consumer Protection

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CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY REMINDERS

As we gather this holiday season, NYS Division of Consumer Protection wants to help keep you safe. In light of the public health crisis and with winter approaching, families are spending more time at home than ever. Did you know that many deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning occur during the winter months? Learn how to stay safe this year by following the tips below, provided in partnership with the Consumer Protection Safety Commission (CPSC):

Carbon Monoxide – Known as the invisible killer, carbon monoxide leaks are undetectable as they are odorless and colorless. Prevention is key, and can be done by taking the following measures:

- Install a battery-operated or battery-backed carbon monoxide detector. Replace batteries once a year in all CO alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping area. Note that this is different from your smoke alarm.
- Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open. Use generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from your home.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. These symptoms can be mistaken for the flu. If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.
- NEVER ignore a beeping CO alarm. If the CO alarm rings, get outside immediately, and call 911.

You can find these and more tips by checking out the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website at <https://www.cpsc.gov/>. You can also find more information at the Division of Consumer Protection website at www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection.

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