



## Indoor Air Quality

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/co.html>  
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You are here: [EPA Home](#) | [Air](#) | [Indoor Air Quality](#) | [Basic Information](#) | [Carbon Monoxide](#)

## Basic Information

### Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

#### Contents

- [Definition](#)
- [Sources of Carbon Monoxide](#)
- [Health Effects Associated with Carbon Monoxide](#)
- [Levels in Homes](#)
- [Steps to Reduce Exposure to Carbon Monoxide](#)
- [Standards or Guidelines](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)
- [Links to Additional Information](#)
  - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
  - [Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#)
  - [Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Fire Administration](#)
  - [About Carbon Monoxide Detectors](#)
  - [U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Carbon Monoxide Warning](#)
  - [Portable Generators](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Publications/Documents from CPSC](#)

#### Definition

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, practically odorless, and tasteless gas or liquid. It results from incomplete oxidation of carbon in combustion. Burns with a violet flame. Slightly soluble in water; soluble in alcohol and benzene. Specific gravity 0.96716; boiling point -190°C; solidification point -207°C; specific volume 13.8 cu. ft./lb. (70°F). Auto ignition temperature (liquid) 1128°F. Classed as an inorganic compound.

Source: "The Condensed Chemical Dictionary," 9th ed., revised by Gessner G.

#### Pollutants and Sources of Indoor Air Pollution

- Asbestos
- Biological Pollutants
- Carbon Monoxide
- Formaldehyde/Pressed Wood Products
- Household Cleaning and Maintenance, Personal Care, or Hobbies
- Lead
- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Pesticides
- Radon
- Respirable Particles
- Secondhand Smoke/Environmental Tobacco Smoke
- Stoves, Heaters, Fireplaces, and Chimneys

Read "The Inside Story: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality"

#### ALERT: Put generators outside.

Never use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.