



HOW TO CHOOSE A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM

Carbon monoxide (CO) is created anytime a fuel such as gasoline, oil, wood, or propane is burned, and can be caused by many common household appliances. It is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in North America. Odorless, tasteless and invisible, the only safe way to know if you are being poisoned is to install a CO alarm on every level of your home and in sleeping areas.

The experts at Kidde recommend choosing CO alarms that have the most accurate sensing technology available. CO alarms are designed to alert the homeowner when carbon monoxide levels have begun to accumulate over a period of time, and will alarm before most people would experience any CO poisoning symptoms. The more accurate the alarm, the greater chance a family will respond appropriately to the problem. Below are key factors to look for when purchasing a CO alarm:

- **Electrochemical sensor:** Alarms with electrochemical sensors are more stable during humidity and temperature changes and resist reacting to common household chemicals that may cause false readings. Kidde's CO alarms include Nighthawk technology, which has been proven to be the world's most accurate CO sensing technology based on claims by major manufacturers.
- **End-of-life warning:** This feature alerts consumers when it's time to replace the alarm. Kidde is the only major manufacturer who tests its CO alarms for long-term reliability, and whose alarms have a built-in end-of-life feature.
- **UL or CSA Listed:** CO alarms should meet the strict third-party standards set by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA). A "UL Listed" or "CSA Listed" label should be printed on the product's packaging. Kidde is the only major manufacturer whose CO alarms currently meet the strict standards set forth by both UL and CSA.

Important Features

Below are a few of the major features to consider when selecting CO alarms for the home:

- **Accuracy:** Look for a statement on the package about the alarm's accuracy level. If the CO alarm is UL listed, then the accuracy statement will have been certified by UL, too.
- **Battery Operated:** Consumers who live in areas prone to power outages or who own a gas-powered generator should consider a battery-powered CO alarm with a backlit digital display. Battery-powered units offer 24-hour-a-day CO monitoring when power is interrupted. The backlit digital display allows the user to view the CO level in the dark. The alarm can also be placed on a shelf or wall or moved from room-to-room.
- **Digital Display:** A digital display screen clearly shows the level of CO detected in the home, and updates the reading every 15 seconds.
- **Peak-Level Memory:** This feature records the highest level of CO present. Knowing the CO level in the home can help emergency personnel determine treatment.
- **Plug-in with Battery Backup:** Easy to plug into any electrical socket, these alarms include a 9V battery for protection during short-term power outages.
- **Voice Warning:** This feature clearly announces the threat present in the home, in addition to emitting the traditional alarm beep. It is often a feature of combination smoke/CO alarms.

Placement & Maintenance

Below are recommendations on the optimal placement of your CO alarms:

- **Install at least one CO alarm on every floor and in sleeping areas.**
- Make sure CO alarms are at least 15 feet away from cooking or heating appliances to prevent false alarms.
- Don't cover or obstruct the unit. Test the CO alarm monthly.
- Replace CO alarms every 5 years to benefit from the latest technology upgrades.

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