



Carbon Monoxide Alarm/Detector Information



Some CO Detectors, like this Nighthawk model, offer a digital readout of the CO concentration, in parts per million.

Proper placement of a carbon monoxide (CO) detector is important. If you are installing only one carbon monoxide detector, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends it be located near the sleeping area, where it can wake you if you are asleep. Also, additional detectors located on every level and in every bedroom of a home provide extra protection against carbon monoxide poisoning.

Homeowners should remember not to install carbon monoxide detectors directly above or beside fuel-burning appliances, as appliances may emit a small amount of carbon monoxide upon start-up. A detector should not be placed within fifteen feet of heating or cooking appliances or in or near very humid areas such as bathrooms.

CO detectors do not serve as smoke alarms and vice versa. However, combination smoke/CO alarms are also sold. Smoke alarms detect the smoke generated by flaming or smoldering fires, whereas CO detectors can alert people about faulty fuel burning devices to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is produced from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. In the home, CO can be formed, for example, by open flames, space heaters, water heaters, blocked chimneys or running a car inside a garage.

Since CO is colorless, tasteless and odorless (unlike smoke from a fire), detection and prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning in a home environment is impossible without such a warning device.

Battery-only carbon monoxide detectors tend to go thru batteries more frequently than expected. Plug-in detectors with a battery backup (for use if the power is interrupted) provide less battery-changing maintenance.

When considering where to place a carbon monoxide detector, keep in mind that although carbon monoxide is 28 g/mol, roughly the same weight as air, and air is 28.8 g/mol.

Remember, no home is air tight. So if CO is present it will mix around with the ambient air.



Dual Sensor means photoelectric and ionization
Combination means CO and Smoke
Long life alarm means 10 year welded battery

Although all home **carbon monoxide detectors** use an audible alarm signal as the primary indicator, some versions also offer a digital readout of the CO concentration, in parts per million. Smoke alarm has a 3 temporal beep while the CO alarm has 4 quick beeps. Test your alarms to know the difference.

Installation locations vary by manufacturer. Manufacturers' recommendations differ to a certain degree based on research conducted with each one's specific detector. **Therefore, make sure to read the provided installation manual for each detector before installing.**

