

# CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN RESIDENCES

Information for tenants



It is your right as a tenant to have working CO detectors installed in your residence.

## CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a toxic gas that can't be seen or smelled. It is the most common cause of deadly poisonings and is made when fuels—like gas, kerosene, propane, or wood—are burned.

## WISCONSIN CARBON MONOXIDE LAW

All residences in Wisconsin built after June 1, 1980 are **mandated by law** to have a CO detector installed if there is a fuel-burning appliance in the residence. Examples of fuel-burning appliances include gas or oil-burning furnaces, gas or wood-burning stoves, and gas-powered clothing dryers.

## TAKE ACTION

- **Check that there is a working CO detector installed on every floor of the residence, including the basement.** Some smoke detectors also have a CO detector, but not all do. Check for the words “CO” or “Carbon Monoxide” on your detector.
- **If your residence doesn't have a CO detector or it doesn't work,** you should send a written notice to your landlord. The landlord then must fix it or install a new one within five days of receiving the written notice.
- **Building owners are responsible for maintaining CO detectors in the residence.** For more information on CO detector laws, see [Wis. Stat. § 101.149](#), and Wis. Admin. Code §§ [SPS 362.0915](#) and [SPS 321.097](#).
- **Test your CO detectors monthly.** Remember to replace the batteries twice a year, when you change your clock with Daylight Savings Time.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning:** headache, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and confusion. If you have any of these symptoms or if your alarm sounds, go outside to fresh air immediately and call 911. At high levels, carbon monoxide can cause death within minutes.



**1 out of every 4 Wisconsinites does not have a CO detector in their residence\*.**

\*Data from the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin, 2018-2019

