

# WHERE TO LOCATE CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTORS

It is important for you to know that, contrary to what you may believe, **carbon monoxide (CO) is *not* heavier than air**. Carbon monoxide gas is, in fact, slightly lighter than air and will generally rise within confined spaces, as you have in dwellings. Why is this important? It affects where you should install a CO detector. After performing research, I have discovered that, generally, the ideal location for a CO detector is five feet above the floor, or slightly higher than a typical wall switch.

However, good luck finding a power outlet mounted at this height in your home. So, what is a person to do? First and foremost, read the recommended mounting height by the manufacturer. Some manufacturers adjust the sensitivity of their monitoring devices to accommodate other heights. CO devices may come “programmed” to work when mounted on the ceiling, or at the height of a typical wall outlet. It just depends. So read those instructions carefully before purchasing.

Where should you place CO detectors/monitors?

- On every level of your home. In order to ensure that your home has maximum protection, it's important to have a CO detector on every floor.
- Five feet from the ground (floor). Carbon monoxide detectors get the best reading of your home's air when they are placed five feet from the ground (floor).
- Near every sleeping area. If your CO levels get too high during the nighttime, it's important that the detectors can be heard by everyone sleeping in your home. Place your detectors close enough to every sleeping area so that they can awaken everyone in the case of an emergency.
- Near attached garages. Cars produce carbon monoxide any time they are running. Gasses can quickly spread to the rest of your house. A CO detector near your attached garage will warn you if that becomes a problem.
- **Where the manufacturer recommends.** Every model of carbon monoxide detector is tested according to manufacturer specifications. It's important to take those specifications into account when you're deciding where to place your detectors.

Where should you avoid placing CO detectors/monitors because they cause false readings?

- In close proximity to any fuel-burning appliance.
- In excessively humid areas such as your bathroom.
- In direct sunlight.
- Near any sources of blowing air such as a fan, vent or open window.

Carbon monoxide **ALARMS or DETECTORS** are the most common type of carbon monoxide devices. They work like your smoke or fire alarms, simply alerting you when it deems that there is a dangerous amount of carbon monoxide in your home.

Carbon monoxide **MONITORS** are different because they actively monitor the amount of carbon monoxide in your air and give you a digital readout. This lets you know when there are higher than usual amounts of CO in your home, even if they aren't at what other detectors deem a dangerous level.

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