

Replace Your Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors Every Seven Years

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors only last between seven and ten years, meaning that many detectors in homes today have outlived their factory lifespan. Simply testing the detector using the button on the device only checks the alarm and the circuitry; it does not verify that the sensor is working. The sensor is a consumable component of the device that wears out over time. Most CO detectors will have a date on the back of the unit to help you determine their age.

New CO detectors are readily available and inexpensive. Most hardware stores carry a variety of different models. If possible, it is recommended that detectors are able to use two power sources: household current and battery. This way, if one of the power sources is disrupted, you and your family are still protected.

If at any time your CO detector activates due to an unknown cause, please call “911” so Fire Department personnel can come and investigate. Remember, CO is a “silent killer” that can cause very subtle, flu-like symptoms. If an alarm activates and individuals in your household are showing these symptoms, get to fresh air immediately.

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