



Power Tools & Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Fuel-powered portable equipment like power washers, compressors, cement saws and others can generate dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide (also known as CO) is a gas that can be deadly to humans and pets, even in small amounts, because it blocks your body from getting oxygen. Breathing in carbon monoxide can cause death in a very short time. The problem is that you can't see, taste or smell carbon monoxide. You may be exposed without knowing it, which is why carbon monoxide is sometimes called "the silent killer."



Professionals have the benefit of occupational safety standards and rules to keep them safe. However, the average 'do-it-yourself' person does not.

It is up to you to keep yourself safe.

If you use any tools that have a fuel-powered engine, please:

- **DO** read and follow all of the instructions that come with ALL of your fuel-powered equipment, including generators and power washers.

- **DO NOT** use your tools indoors even if you think you have good air-flow or you wear a mask. A mask cannot protect you from carbon monoxide.



- **DO** pay attention to flu-like symptoms. Headache, dizziness, confusion, tiredness and feeling sick to your stomach are all common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.



- **DO** move outside to fresh air immediately if carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected.

- **DO** go to the emergency room or call 911 if you feel sick. Tell them that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be determined by a quick blood test done soon after exposure. The faster you are treated, the better your chances at a quick recovery.

DO NOT ignore symptoms. You could DIE within minutes if you do nothing. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room as quickly as possible if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.



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For More Information:

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/co>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/cofact1.html>