

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. FIRE / EMS DEPARTMENT



TIPsheet

Carbon Monoxide Detector Installation

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT THE
PGFD/EMS DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE AT 301-883-5250



Proper placement of your carbon monoxide (CO) detector is important. If you are installing only one carbon monoxide detector, it is recommended it be installed near the sleeping area, where it can wake sleeping occupants. Additional detectors on every level and in every bedroom of a home provide extra protection against carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide detectors should not be installed near any fuel burning appliances, as these appliances may emit a small amount of carbon monoxide upon start up. Your detector should not be placed in mechanical rooms or within fifteen feet of heating or cooking appliances or in or near very humid areas such as bathrooms.

When considering where to place a carbon monoxide detector, keep in mind that **carbon monoxide is approximately the same weight as air, so wall mounting is recommended.** It is best to install the detector at least two feet below the height of the ceiling. CO detectors are also designed to work within your normal comfort levels of temperature and humidity, so avoid installing them near bathrooms, in direct sunlight and close to any appliances that generate heat.

Installation locations vary by manufacturer; so follow manufacturer's instructions for specific detector locations.

- *When wall mounting, place your detector out of reach of children.*
- *Placing the alarm at eye level will allow for optimum monitoring of the digital display (if equipped).*
- *Do not install in kitchens, garages or furnace rooms that may expose the sensor to substances that could damage or contaminate it.*
- *Do not install in areas where the temperature is colder than 32 or hotter than 100 degrees such as crawl spaces, attics, porches and garages.*
- *Do not install within 15 feet of heating or cooking appliances.*
- *Do not install your detector near vents, flues, chimneys or other ventilation openings.*
- *Do not install in dead air spaces, such as peaks of vaulted ceilings or gabled roofs, where CO may not reach the sensor in time to provide adequate warning.*
- *Do not obstruct the vents on the alarm cover. Do not place the alarm where drapes, furniture or other objects block the flow of air to the vents.*