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# Homeowner News

News & Information For The Customers Of COLONY A/C & HEATING Fall, 2007

## Protect Your Family From Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is called "the silent killer." It is an odorless, colorless gas that's a by-product of gas combustion. CO can cause illness or death before you're aware of its presence. Fortunately, with good ventilation and well maintained, properly adjusted gas and wood burning appliances, the chances are good you will have little to fear from carbon monoxide.

Unfortunately, many homeowners neglect appliance maintenance, which can be fatal. According to the U.S. EPA's James Raub, CO may cause more than half of all fatal poisonings. "Fatal cases," claimed Raub in the journal, *Toxicology*, "Also are grossly under-reported or misdiagnosed by medical professionals."

### Where CO Comes From

To start, background levels of carbon monoxide are always present in the atmosphere. Some occurs naturally from volcanic activity and forest fires. Automobile and industrial emissions also contribute to background levels.

In the home, carbon monoxide can come from tobacco smoke, unvented gas space heaters and appliances, and automobile, lawn mower, generator, and other small engine exhaust that enters the home. You can minimize these risks by avoiding the indoor use of unvented appliances, by leaving your garage open when your car is running (and by not leaving the engine on while the car is in the garage), by starting and stopping small gas engines outside of the garage, and by locating gas generators outside away from doors, windows, or vents.

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### Refrigerant Phase Out Update

*In 1987, the Montreal Protocol specified a schedule for phasing out the production of R-22, the refrigerant used in home air conditioning systems due to concerns about the ozone hole. After 2009, manufacturers will no longer be able to produce air conditioners using R-22. The generally accepted replacement is R-410a, a refrigerant with no ozone depletion potential. R-410a systems are available today and recommended when buying a new air conditioner.*



# Kwik Krab Nachos

## Ingredients:

- Tortilla chips
- One finely chopped medium tomato
- 1/3 cup of minced sweet onion
- Small can of diced jalapenos (or 2 to 3 TBSP minced fresh jalapenos)
- 8 oz package of imitation crab
- 8oz shredded Mexican cheese mix (divided)
- Sour cream



## Directions:

Spread chips in a thick layer across pizza stone or oven safe platter

Layer half of the crab and cheese over the chips

Add a thin layer of chips

Add remaining crab and all but about 1/3 cup of cheese

Sprinkle tomato, onion and peppers over nachos and top with remaining cheese

Broil until the cheese melts and serve with sour cream

## Awesome Autumn Arranging Tips

- Use large binders with loose-leaf files in them to hold school artwork and papers. Organize them by year for a timeline of what your child has learned!
- Stock up on holiday baking goods, such as holiday-shaped cookie cutters, sugar, flour, and colored sprinkles.
- Write the date and event on each vacation photo before you store it (or put it in the filename of digital pictures). You'll be thankful down the road when you're wondering where and when you took the pictures!
- Store clothes by fabrics when you rotate them from summer to fall. This will speed your storage process and help you preserve them better.
- Prepare for birthdays and the holidays by creating a gift-wrapping center with papers, bows, scissors, and tape. Store the center in a closet for easy access when needed.



**AUTUMN SPECIAL**  
Mention Homeowner News and get a \$20 discount on a carbon monoxide detector. Regularly \$99.00 Now \$79.00

### Homeowner News

The Homeowner News is a quarterly publication of

**COLONY A/C & HEATING.**

It is provided to our customers free of charge. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Contact us at:

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## Protect Your Family From Carbon Monoxide

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Carbon monoxide can also occur in the home when a gas appliance's flue is improperly sized, becomes disconnected, or the flue becomes partially restricted. A bird nest in the wrong place, for example, may become deadly. Flues should be checked at the start of each heating season.

Another potential source of carbon monoxide is your home's furnace. Heat sections should be checked each fall to ensure the heat exchanger is leak free. Additionally, properly adjusted burners not only mean more efficient operation, but less risk of carbon monoxide resulting from incomplete combustion.

### Backdrafting

Backdrafting occurs when the pressure inside the house is less than the pressure outside the house and the exhaust from natural drafting gas appliances is sucked back into the house. Backdrafting is more of an issue today than the past due to tighter construction standards. A bathroom fan may be enough to create negative pressure in a tightly sealed house.

Backdrafting can also result from leaking return air duct work, wood burning fireplaces (a fire can pull several hundred cubic feet of air out of the house each minute, causing appliances to backdraft), high wind conditions that result in high pressure on the windward side of the house and low pressure on the downwind side, and so on.

You can minimize the potential for backdrafting by installing modern, energy efficient gas furnaces, wood stoves, and water heaters that feature sealed combustion systems. Sealed combustion appliances draw outside air for combustion and exhaust combustion by-products outdoors. Since indoor air is not used for combustion, backdrafting is not a concern.

Another option is power vented furnaces or water heaters. These products use indoor air for combustion, but use a fan to exhaust combustion by-products outside.

### Everyone Recommends Annual Heating System Maintenance

There's a reason virtually every utility, consumer group, government agency, and consumer publication recommends annual heating system maintenance.

Good maintenance can save the lives of you and your family. A heating professional should check for leaks in the heat

exchanger, adjust the burners, clean and check the venting system, and more.

A heating system combustion safety inspection and tune-up is virtually free. The adjustments that ensure you receive a clean burn also save energy. Over the course of the heating season, the energy savings can easily exceed the cost of the tune-up.

An efficient, well-maintained heating system is also an environmentally friendly system. Since you save money on utilities, tune-ups are like buying carbon credits from yourself.

There are many good reasons for getting a tune-up now and none for waiting. Delaying only delays the energy savings. Call us at **972.625.0639** today.



**\$25  
SAVINGS**

*Homeowner News Readers...*  
Mention this newsletter when you call to get a \$25 discount on our full heating & air conditioning service agreement.

# Don't Risk CO Poisoning

Before the heating season got underway, we were already getting reports of carbon monoxide poisonings. This winter, people will die from CO poisoning. Tragically, these will be preventable deaths.

The symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to those of stomach flu. They include nausea, difficulty catching your breath, headaches, and light headedness.

Unlike the stomach flu, CO symptoms will disappear when you leave the source. If you have flu like symptoms that appear only when you are at home or work, this may be carbon monoxide. Further evidence is provided when more than one person shares these symptoms.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Open doors, turn off appliances, and leave the building.

Remember, infants, children, and the elderly are at greater risk and affected by lower levels of exposure.

Pregnant women should be especially alert since a fetus is more sensitive to carbon monoxide than the mother.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get to a hospital or clinic and describe your concern. A simple blood test can confirm carbon monoxide poisoning. Don't risk it.

Larry Everett

## **Carbon Monoxide Leak Sends 15 To Hospital**

- Toronto Star  
Aug. 30, 2007

## **Carbon Monoxide Sickens 3 At Day Care**

- Colorado Springs Gazette  
Sept. 5, 2007



# The Corner

Q: What do cows do on the weekend?  
A: They watch moovies!

Q: What do you call a deer with no eyes?  
A: I have no I-deer!

Q: Why was the Energizer Bunny arrested?  
A: He was charged with battery!

Q: Why do gorillas have big nostrils?  
A: Because they have big fingers!

Q: What do you call a camel with three humps?  
A: Humphreys!

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