



# CO1224A Carbon Monoxide Detector with RealTest™

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless and highly toxic gas. It is produced when flame-fueled devices, such as heating systems, power tools, grills and ovens, malfunction or are not properly vented.

### What happens if CO is inhaled?

The CO is absorbed into the bloodstream, replacing the oxygen traveling to vital organs throughout the body. Depending on the concentration of CO in the air and the length of exposure, effects can include a mild headache, drowsiness, nausea, dizziness, unconsciousness and suffocation. CO poisoning can occur with small amounts accumulating in the bloodstream over time, or large amounts being inhaled quickly.

### How do CO detectors protect residents from CO poisoning?

CO detectors protect residents by monitoring the air and measuring the amount of CO present over a time interval. When dangerous levels are calculated, CO detectors flash and sound a temp-4 alarm.

### Where should a CO detector be installed?

Ideally, a CO detector should be installed:

- Within 10 feet of all sleeping areas
- Inside the bedroom if it contains a fuel burning appliance
- On every floor of the building
- In any room that contains a fuel burning appliance

### Where should a CO detector not be installed?

Ideally, a CO detector should not be installed:

- Within 10 feet of any cooking appliance
- Directly above a sink, cooker, stove or oven
- Next to a door or window that would be affected by drafts (i.e. extractor fan or air vent)
- Outside
- In any environment that does not comply with the detector's environmental specifications
- In or below a cupboard
- Where air flow would be obstructed by curtains or furniture
- Where dirt or dust could collect and block the sensor
- Where it could be knocked, damaged or inadvertently removed

### What are the benefits of a monitored CO detector?

CO detectors can be connected to the initiating circuit of a control panel that connects to a central station. Supervised detectors provide peace of mind by adding an extra level of

protection for situations in which residents cannot respond to an unsupervised alarm, such as when residents are sleeping, when the home is empty, or when residents are already suffering from the effects of CO. If the CO concentration hits a dangerous level, the homeowner will not only be notified by the detector and the control panel, but also by the central station. If the owner is unreachable, the central station may send the proper authorities to investigate. Central station procedures may vary.

### Are CO detectors required by law?

Many provinces and municipalities require CO detectors. Check with the local Authority Having Jurisdiction for CO detector requirements in your area.

### What is the System Sensor CO1224A CO detector?

The CO1224A detector is a 4-wire, electrochemical carbon monoxide detector that works with both 12- and 24-volt fire and security panels and has central station monitoring capabilities. It is the first CO detector to include a test feature that verifies CO cell functionality.

### How do electrochemical detectors compare with other detectors?

Electrochemical detectors are the newest, most refined CO detectors available. They take the most accurate readings of CO concentrations, from low levels of CO that may be hazardous over long periods of time to high concentrations that present an immediate danger.

### What is the life span of the CO1224A CO detector?

The electrochemical sensor operates at full strength for approximately six years. Its built-in timer will signal when the detector needs to be replaced.

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How should the CO1224A unit be wired to a fire or security control panel?

Per NFPA 720, CO detectors must be wired on a non-fire zone. No other fire or intrusion device shall be installed on the CO zone to prevent the CO alarm from being reset while it is monitoring low-level CO accumulation. This could cause a dangerous level of CO to be present for an unsafe amount of time.

Can the CO1224A be functionally tested?

Yes, in fact the CO1224A is the first system CO detector that can quickly and easily be tested using canned carbon monoxide.

Is canned carbon monoxide safe to use?

Yes. Carbon monoxide is harmful when high levels are present for extended periods of time. The concentrations of gas found in canned CO products will not cause symptoms of harm when dispensed for short amounts of time. When using canned CO, please read and follow all manufacturer's instructions.

Does the RealTest feature take a lot of time?

No. The RealTest feature on the CO1224A allows the installer to easily test the detector in less than one minute.

How can I find out how to use the RealTest feature on the CO1224A?

Visit [systemsensor.com/co](http://systemsensor.com/co) to view a how-to video on the RealTest process and to learn more about the CO1224A carbon monoxide detector.

What is the warranty for the CO1224A?

System Sensor warrants the CO1224A to be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use and service for a period of three years from date of manufacture. Please see the installation manual for complete warranty information.