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Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Reviews Updated January 2009

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Carbon monoxide detector with digital readout (battery powered)

Kidde KN-COPP-B



*Est. \$40

[Compare Prices](#)

Reviews say Kidde makes the best carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, thanks to their accuracy, speed and durability. The Kidde KN-COPP-B is battery operated, so it will keep working even during a power outage, when many people tend to use equipment such as space heaters that can generate CO. Because safety experts say that the best placement for a CO detector is high on a wall, this battery-operated model allows for that flexibility. It has an electrochemical sensor, continuous digital readout with large backlit display, peak-level memory (which records the highest danger level), low-battery indicator, a front-loading battery door and a five-year limited warranty. This model is also sold as the Kidde 900-0146.

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Expert & User Review Sources:

Consumer Reports: Consumer Reports publishes the most thorough comparative ratings of CO detectors we found, which includes an explanation of the ...

Amazon.com: CO detectors from Kidde and First Alert are the main models rated here with a few reviews for models from other brands

Plug-in CO detector with battery backup

Kidde KN-COPP-3



*Est. \$45

[Compare Prices](#)

If you aren't the type who's diligent about checking and replacing batteries, you might prefer a plug-in CO detector. The highly rated Kidde KN-COPP-3 is electrically operated, but it has a battery backup that will keep it working during power outages. It also has a digital display, peak-level memory and a test/reset button like the model above. While it does not have a low-battery indicator, it is rated very highly by expert reviewers. There is a five-year warranty. This model is also known as the Kidde 900-0076.

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Expert & User Review Sources:

AviationConsumer.com:

AviationConsumer.com contributor Ben Barnard reviews five carbon monoxide detectors suitable for an airplane's cockpit, ranging ...

Alarmspecs.com: This single-page site rates nearly 200 models of carbon monoxide, heat, and smoke detectors based on life-saving

Basic carbon monoxide detector

Kidde KN-COB-B



*Est. \$25

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Suitable for any household that requires basic CO detection, the Kidde KN-COB-B is recommended by reviewers for its easy installation and affordable price. The big difference between this and more expensive models is that there's no digital readout, so you won't know the exact levels of carbon-monoxide gas in your air. The detector is battery operated with a snap-open cover for easy battery replacement. The unit has a five-year warranty. This model is also sold as the Kidde 9CO-5.

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Kidde KN-COSM-IB



*Est. \$45

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This Kidde unit combines a CO and smoke alarm that features a voice warning system to announce whether a fire, carbon monoxide, or low battery is detected. Reviewers like the multiple features that eliminate the need to purchase a separate smoke alarm, although some note that this model includes only an ionization smoke detector, which detects flames but not smoky fires. The Kidde KN-COSM-IB is a hardwired model with battery backup, and it can be connected to other models, so if one alarm sounds, the others will too. There is a five-year warranty. This model is also sold as the Kidde 900-0114.

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Expert & User Review Sources:

AviationConsumer.com: AviationConsumer.com contributor Ben Barnard reviews five carbon monoxide detectors suitable for an airplane's cockpit, ranging ...

Alarmspecs.com: This single-page site rates nearly 200 models of carbon monoxide, heat, and smoke detectors based on life-saving

Where to buy:

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[Amazon Marketplace](#) for \$28.65

[Amazon](#) for \$42.55

[drugstore.com](#) for \$59.99

Combination alarm with voice warning.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Runners Up:

KN-COSM-B battery-operated model *Est. \$40

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