

# Winter Driving Warning! Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.

By Bob Nichols

It's winter, and the cold weather means we are driving our Corvairs with the heater on. Corvairs use heated air from the engine area. Any exhaust leaks (even very minor ones) can lead to CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning. I heard about a fellow who always drove his Corvair with the window partway down because he didn't want to risk CO poisoning. The only problem with this approach is that you're still breathing fresh air mixed with heated air. Even exposures to air with small amounts of CO accumulate and can result in illness or death. This is not a unique Corvair problem. Many antique cars, early Volkswagens, and small aircraft can pose the same risk, not mention home heating systems.

The best solution is to FIX ANY EXHAUST LEAKS! Placing a CO detector in your car is a good safety/health measure. Carbon Monoxide detectors come in a lot of sizes and shapes:

- Home detectors that use 9-volt batteries are available from home repair stores ( about \$30.00).
- RV and marine units that run off 12Volts (\$50.00 > \$200.00)
- Non powered visual indicator cards are available at small airports from Flight Based Operators (approx. \$8.00) BUT must be replaced periodically.
- A compact 9-volt battery unit for automobiles is available from Quantum Group called the COSTAR model P1 (\$50.00). It's brand new. See [www.qginc.com](http://www.qginc.com).

Each has advantages/disadvantages. Check them all out and purchase one that works for you.