



Blocked furnace vent

Preventing problems

The risk of CO poisoning from well-maintained gas appliances is extremely low. You can reduce the risk even further by having a licensed gas contractor install, inspect and service your appliances as well as checking vents regularly to make sure they are connected, clear of obstructions and in good repair.

Good habits in using fuel-burning appliances will also help you prevent CO buildup in your home:

- Read and keep appliance manuals.
- Check that outside air ducts, exhaust vents and bug screens are clear, allowing air to flow freely.
- When using a wood-burning fireplace, open the damper and a window or door nearby. Before you close the damper, make sure the ashes have cooled.

Preventing problems continued

- Always keep furnace fan compartment doors and/or the filter access panel in place.
- When cooking on a gas range, always use the exhaust fan to ventilate fumes to the outside.
- Never use a gas or propane barbecue, heater, lamp or other appliance intended for outdoor use inside the house, garage, tent or RV.
- Don't start chainsaws, leaf blowers and lawnmowers in an enclosed space.
- Never start a vehicle in a closed garage. When pulling out into the driveway, close the garage door immediately to prevent exhaust fumes from being drawn into the house.

If you're planning energy-efficiency improvements to your home such as new insulation, contact a licensed gas contractor to make sure you still have enough fresh air and ventilation to operate appliances safely.

Learn more about gas safety for homeowners at safetyauthority.ca

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Carbon Monoxide Safety



For kids and parents

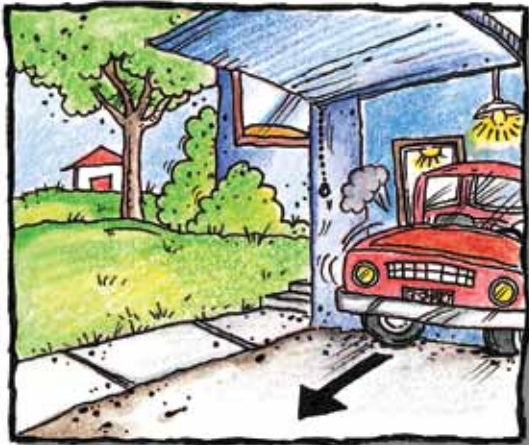
Carbon Monoxide Safety

What is it?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless gas. Inhaling even small amounts of it can be harmful to your health, even deadly. You can't smell or taste CO, so watch for the warning signs of CO in your home, maintain and use fuel-burning appliances correctly, and know what to do if you suspect CO in your home.

Where does it come from?

When fuels – such as natural gas, propane, oil, wood and coal – don't have enough fresh air to burn completely, or if exhaust is not vented to the outdoors, CO can result. CO also comes from vehicle exhaust and tobacco smoke.



Move car outside once started



Have your appliances regularly inspected by a licensed contractor

Warning signs of the presence of CO

Be alert for physical symptoms of CO poisoning such as unexplained:

- headaches
- nausea
- dizziness
- drowsiness
- confusion
- stumbling
- fainting

Children, elderly people, or those with chronic disease may be more susceptible to CO poisoning.

If elevated levels of CO are in your home, you may also notice:

- soot or yellow flames around the burners of gas or propane appliances
- unidentified chronic odours
- condensation on windows and walls

CO alarms

Choosing an alarm

When shopping for a CO alarm, be sure that it is CSA approved. The alarm should have a CSA blue flame printed on the package, indicating that it meets Canadian safety standards.

Installation & usage tips

- Install CO alarms where you can hear them while sleeping, near bedrooms on each floor of the home.
- Place the alarm at least 4.5 metres away from sources of heat or humidity such as furnaces and vents, bathrooms and cooking appliances.
- To prevent false alarms, don't install the alarm in an attached garage or carport or near the door from the house to the garage.
- Test your CO alarm at least twice a year.
- Replace batteries annually.
- Replace CO alarms every five years, or according to the date on the alarm or box.

If you suspect CO in your home

- Open doors and windows to air out the room or building.
- Turn off any suspect appliances, if known.
- Leave the house and get everyone into fresh air immediately.
- Call 911 or your gas utility to check carbon monoxide levels.
- Seek medical assistance.
- Have a licensed gas contractor inspect your appliances.