

WHERE DO I PUT MY CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR?

There should be at least one CO detector per household located near the sleeping area(s). A second detector located near the home's heating source adds an extra measure of safety.

Purchase a detector that is listed by the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) to the latest Canadian Gas Association (CGA) standard. Choose a detector that features a test button, which checks the entire unit for easy assurance that it's operating properly. Follow the manufacturer's directions for installing and maintaining your CO alarm.

WHAT IF THE DETECTOR GOES OFF?

When the alarm senses a certain level of carbon monoxide over time, it will sound an alarm. Do not ignore the alarm if it goes off.

If a CO alarm sounds in your home, immediately leave your home and call **911**. Do not re-enter the building until the fire department has done their check and gives you the OK to do so.

REPORT ALL FIRES TO YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT - EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU'VE PUT THEM OUT

CALL 9-1-1



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CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

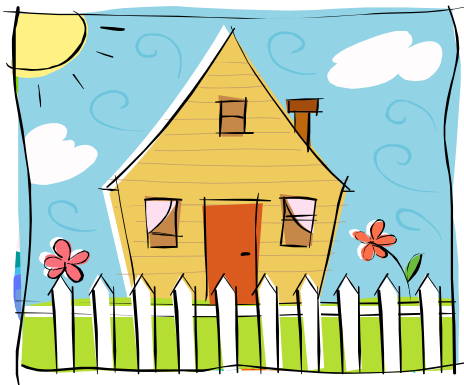


**WHITBY FIRE AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

HOW EARLY WARNING CAN
HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste, or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there. Today's more energy-efficient, airtight home designs contribute to the problem by trapping CO-polluted air inside the home.



WHO IS AT RISK FOR CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Everyone is at risk. Carbon monoxide poisoning can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere. Experts believe that vulnerability to CO poisoning increases for unborn babies, infants, senior citizens, and people with coronary or respiratory problems. These people are considered to be at greatest risk.

WHY IS CARBON MONOXIDE SO DANGEROUS?

The great danger of carbon monoxide is its attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream. CO is breathed in through the lungs, and bonds with hemoglobin in your blood, displacing the oxygen which cells need to function. When CO is present in the air it rapidly accumulates in the blood. It will eventually displace enough oxygen in your system to suffocate you from the inside out, resulting in brain damage or death.

WHERE DOES CARBON MONOXIDE COME FROM?

CO is a common by-product of combustion, which is present whenever fossil fuels are burned. CO is produced by malfunctioning or improperly vented home appliances that burn natural gas, oil, propane, wood or kerosene, such as:

- Furnaces
- Fireplaces and woodstoves
- Gas ranges and clothes dryers
- Water heaters
- Charcoal grills
- Space heaters

Automobile exhaust is another source and can seep into the home if the car is left running in the garage.

A clogged chimney or improper venting can cause problems as well.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Carbon monoxide poisoning is difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to other common diseases such as the flu. Symptoms of low level CO poisoning can include headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, and confusion. There are, however, a few hints that can help.

To identify carbon monoxide poisoning in your home:

- Are other members of the household feeling ill as well?
- Do you feel better when you are away from the house for a period of time?
- If so, you may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. To be sure, see a physician and request a carboxyhemoglobin test. This will determine the percentage of carbon monoxide present in your blood.