

PROPANE SAFETY

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY



Carbon monoxide, commonly known as CO, is a colourless, odourless and tasteless toxic gas. Propane appliances, like all other fuel-burning appliances, present the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning if not installed, operated, vented or maintained properly.

Even a small amount of CO is dangerous in enclosed spaces like your home, garage, vehicle, cottage, boat, recreational vehicle or tent.

PRACTICE PREVENTION

- Use appliances only for the purpose for which they are intended. Use only the fuel for which your appliance was specifically designed.
- Always be sure your home, camper, or R.V., or other enclosed spaces in which propane appliances are operating, are properly ventilated so there is enough oxygen for combustion and so the products of combustion are vented to the outdoors.
- Fuel-burning appliances must be installed, inspected, moved, repaired, and serviced by a qualified technician.
- When operating correctly, propane appliances burn with a blue flame. Yellow flames, or soot can indicate incomplete combustion, which may produce carbon monoxide. Turn off the appliance immediately and contact a licensed professional.
- Never use any internal combustion engine (e.g., generator, snow blower, lawn mower) in a garage or other enclosed area.
- Refer to the manufacturer's installation and operating manuals provided with your appliances to ensure the appliances are properly operated, vented and maintained.
- When shopping for propane equipment or Carbon Monoxide detectors, always ask if the product is certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC). Many products sold outside Canada do not comply with Canadian safety standards.

ACT FAST

If carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected:

- Leave the building immediately.
- Call 911 and seek medical help.
- Have your propane appliances checked and repaired.

APPLIANCE TIPS

- When using a stove, range or fireplace, ensure the vents provided are open and/or turned on.
- Check that indoor vents are not corroded or blocked.
- Check that chimneys and outdoor vents are not corroded or blocked (by a bird's nest, snow or ice or other debris).
- Keep combustion air inlet ducts clear. They can become blocked (by accumulated snow and ice or other debris).
- Never use the oven to heat your home.
- Don't use outdoor propane camping equipment like lamps, camp stoves or barbecues in enclosed spaces, including in an R.V., garage, tent, or hunting camp.

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CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation, proper use and maintenance. Install carbon monoxide detectors adjacent to sleeping areas on all levels of your home, R.V., or camper.
- Never rely on carbon monoxide detectors as a substitute for regular inspection and maintenance of natural gas, propane, kerosene, oil, or wood-burning appliances, venting and chimneys.
- A carbon monoxide detector should not be used as a substitute for a smoke detector.
- Verify the replacement date on the packaging of the carbon monoxide detector.
- If your carbon monoxide detector is battery-operated, replace the batteries annually.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Exposure to carbon monoxide causes flu-like symptoms such as:

- Headaches and/or tightness across the forehead and temples;
- Weakness, dizziness, nausea, and/or drowsiness;
- Confusion and/or impaired judgement;
- Loss of muscular control;
- Watering and smarting of the eyes;
- Shortness of breath;
- Loss of consciousness.

In severe cases, carbon monoxide poisoning can cause brain damage and death.

Some members of your household may be particularly sensitive to carbon monoxide and may feel the effects sooner, including: unborn babies, infants, children, people with heart and respiratory conditions, people taking medication or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the elderly, and pets.

BE AWARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNS

- Abnormal odour when your furnace or other fuel-burning appliances turn on.
- The air feels stale or stuffy.
- Abnormal moisture forming on windows and walls.
- Soot on any equipment or a yellow flame at the burner tip of a propane appliance.

RENOVATING?

If you are adding a new fuel-burning appliance or making changes to your home's ventilation system, including adding new windows and additional insulation, consult a qualified service technician.

Changes may upset the operation and proper venting of existing appliances.