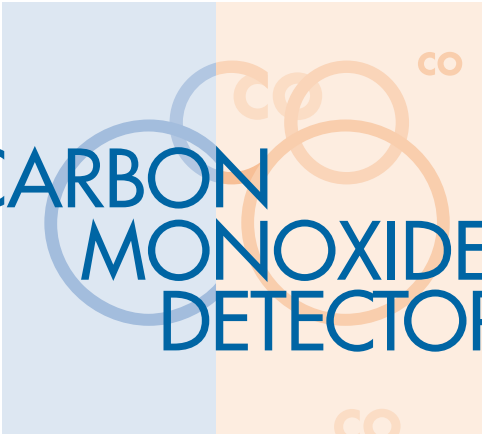


CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
AND YOUR
FAMILY
FROM THE
"SILENT KILLER"**

**IS YOURS
INSTALLED?**



CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

The Province of Ontario has experienced an increasing number of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning incidents over the past several years which have resulted in serious injury and, in extreme cases, death.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide (CO), is a poisonous gas that cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. It is often referred to as the “silent killer.” CO can be produced by gas, oil furnaces, space and water heaters, clothes dryers, ovens, wood stoves, barbecues and other household appliances that run on fossil fuels such as wood, gas, oil or coal.

Improperly installed or poorly maintained appliances that run on these fuels may create unsafe levels of CO. In enclosed spaces such as your home, cottage or recreational vehicle, even a small amount of CO is dangerous.

WHY IS CARBON MONOXIDE SO DEADLY?

When you breathe in heavy concentrations of carbon monoxide, brain damage, suffocation or death may occur.

Because you cannot see, smell or taste it, poisoning can happen to anyone, any time, anywhere. Everyone is at risk; however, pregnant women, fetuses, young children, senior citizens and people with heart and lung problems, are more susceptible.

WHAT CAN CREATE A CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARD?

- CO Fuel burning appliances, venting systems and chimneys that have not been serviced and maintained regularly by a qualified service technician or heating contractor.
- CO A chimney blocked by a nest, snow and ice or other debris.
- CO Improper venting of a furnace and cracked furnace heat exchangers.
- CO Exhaust fumes seeping into your home from a running car in an attached garage.
- CO Using fuel burning appliances designed for outdoor use such as barbecues, lanterns, chainsaws, lawnmowers or snowblowers in an enclosed area such as a tent, recreational vehicle, cottage, workshop or garage.
- CO If a home is too airtight, fuel burning appliances may have to compete for available oxygen causing a backdraft which would suck polluted or CO contaminated air back into your home.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Carbon monoxide poisoning is difficult to diagnose as its symptoms are similar to

those of the flu. Symptoms may include fatigue, headaches, confusion, disorientation, dizziness and nausea. To help identify carbon monoxide poisoning, ask other members of your household if they are experiencing any of the same symptoms. If so, you may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning.

IF YOU SUSPECT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

- If anyone is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, get everyone out of the home immediately leaving the door open.
- Call the fire department at 9-1-1 from a neighbour's home or cell phone.
- Seek medical attention.
- Do not re-enter the home until cleared by the fire department.

IF YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR SOUNDS

- Do not assume it to be a false alarm, open all doors and windows to ventilate the home.
- If you cannot find the problem and the alarm continues, contact the fire department.
- If there is a strong smell of natural gas in your home or anyone is experiencing symptoms, evacuate everyone immediately, leave the door open and call the fire department at 9-1-1 and your local gas utility.
- If no symptoms are experienced, reset the detector and check to see if it

activates again. If it does, call the fire department for their assistance.

- CO If your detector does not sound a second time, check for common conditions that may have caused a CO build up and if necessary contact a qualified heating contractor to check your fuel burning equipment.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF IN THE HOME?

- 1 Regular maintenance and cleaning of all fuel burning appliances by a qualified technician at least once a year.
- 2 Regular inspections and cleaning by a qualified technician of all vent pipes and chimney flues at least once a year.
- 3 Install at least one carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home where a sleeping unit exists.

THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA'S CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR BYLAW

The Bylaw requires the installation and maintenance of carbon monoxide detectors in all residential occupancies containing fuel burning appliances.

1. Definitions

Exact details and definitions may be found at:

<http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/monoxide.PDF>

2. **Every owner of a dwelling unit and a multi unit residential structure shall operate and maintain heating, ventilating**


and air conditioning systems, including appliances, chimneys and flue pipes, so as not to create a hazardous condition.

- 3. Every owner shall install or cause to be installed a minimum of one (1) carbon monoxide detector:**
 - (a) in each dwelling unit which contains a fuel burning appliance; and
 - (b) in the case of a multi unit residential structure, in each dwelling unit located on the same floor level as a fuel burning appliance and in each service room, provided that the detector installed in each service room shall be equipped with a remote signal, visible and audible in a supervised or conspicuous location.
- 4. If a carbon monoxide detector is required and has been installed in a dwelling unit in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Building Code, then the dwelling unit shall be deemed to comply with this Bylaw.**
- 5. Every owner of a dwelling unit or a multi unit residential structure shall ensure that each carbon monoxide detector installed in a dwelling unit or a service room is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall be equipped with an alarm that is audible within all bedrooms when the intervening doors are closed.**
- 6. Every owner of a dwelling unit or a multi unit residential structure**

shall ensure that each carbon monoxide detector installed in a dwelling unit or a service room is maintained in good operating condition and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

- 7. Every owner shall ensure that where an electrically powered carbon monoxide detector is installed, each such carbon monoxide detector shall:**
 - (a) be equipped with visual indications that it is in operating condition; and
 - (b) have no power switch between the carbon monoxide detector and the power distribution panel.
- 8. Every person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence, and upon conviction, is liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000 exclusive of costs.**
- 9. This Bylaw shall come into force on March 1, 2000.**
- 10. If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provision, or any part of a provision of this Bylaw to be invalid, or to be of no force and effect, it is the intention of the Council in enacting this Bylaw that each and every other provision of this Bylaw be applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the extent possible according to law.**
- 11. The short title of this Bylaw is the "Carbon Monoxide Detector Bylaw."**

This brochure has been produced for your information, so that you and your family can protect yourselves against accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.



CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

CO

For further information on the City of Mississauga's Carbon Monoxide Detector Bylaw or carbon monoxide please contact:

Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services Public Education at

905-615-4377

Emergency Calls

9-1-1

**IS YOURS
INSTALLED?**

 **MISSISSAUGA**
Fire and Emergency Services
Leading today for tomorrow