

# CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY



Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odourless, colourless, toxic gas. It is produced when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) are burned incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

# PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS

#### Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms. + Replace the batteries annually.

- Install carbon monoxide alarms in a central location outside each sleeping room as well as on every level of the home.
  - + For the best protection, all carbon monoxide alarms should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test your carbon monoxide alarm at least + 1 once a month and replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Never remove batteries or disable alarms.

#### Maintain fuel burning appliances.

- + Review user manuals and use appliances only for the purpose for which they are intended.
- + Get your appliances checked annually by a qualified service technician or heating contractor.

## PURCHASING A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM

- + Ensure that the alarm is certified to Canadian standards:
  - + Products with CSA 6.19–01 on the packaging have been tested to the Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices standards.
- + The alarm will also show a replacement date.
- + Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation, proper use and maintenance.

#### Ensure proper air flow.

- + Check that chimneys, fireplaces and vents are not corroded or blocked by snow or other debris.
- + Do not operate chainsaws, lawn mowers, snow blowers, gas or charcoal grills in a closed area such as a garage, workshop, shed, etc.

#### Never leave an idling vehicle in an attached garage.

+ Immediately move your vehicle out of the garage after starting the engine to prevent exhaust flames from seeping into the building through connecting doors or vents.



Mount high on ailing or v directly outside bedrooms

## **CARBON MONOXIDE EXPOSURE**

- + Exposure to the gas can cause symptoms such as:
  - Dizziness
  - Headache 4
  - Nausea
  - Fatigue ÷
  - ÷ Burning eyes
  - Vomiting ÷
  - Loss of muscle control ÷
- Other warning signs include:
  - Stale or stuffy air ж.
  - + Excessive moisture on windows and walls
  - + Soot buildup around appliances and vents
  - + A yellow flame in natural gas appliances instead of a blue flame
  - + A pilot light that keeps going out

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