

CARBON MONOXYDE

A POISONOUS AND DEADLY GAS



What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a toxic, colourless, odourless, tasteless and non-irritating gas. Given that you can't see, smell or taste it, this gas can be fatal before you even realize it's presence.

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

Carbon monoxide can be produced by appliances that use propane or natural gas, such as stoves, refrigerators, driers and barbecues. It can also be produced by fuel-burning heating systems such as oil furnaces, wood stoves and gas fireplaces. Outside, carbon monoxide produced by fuel-powered tools and equipment, gas or diesel powered vehicles, can seep into your home.



Possible causes

of carbon monoxide poisoning

- defective appliances and equipment;
- insufficient ventilation or blocked air intakes;
- obstruction of chimneys by debris;
- obstruction of heating system exhaust ducts;
- engines running in the garage, even with the door open;
- incomplete combustion.

The following are symptoms of mild poisoning

- nausea
- headache
- fatigue

acute symptoms include

- convulsions
- fainting
- coma
- death

Useful tips for reducing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning

- Never leave an engine running in the garage, even with the door open.
- Never use a barbecue inside a building.
- Never use gas-powered tools or equipment (heater, lawnmower, chainsaw, generator, etc.) inside a building or in a confined or poorly ventilated area.
- Never use a gas stove to heat your home, even briefly.
- Perform annual maintenance on all combustion appliances.
- Install carbon monoxide detector in your home.

Choosing a carbon monoxide detector

Your carbon monoxide detector must have the following:

- the seal of a recognized certification agency;
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- a backup battery in case of a power failure;
 - a low battery alarm;
 - a light indicating that it is operating properly;
 - a visual signal and an audible alarm;
 - a test button to check whether it is operating properly.

What should I do if the carbon monoxide detector goes off?

- Do not open the windows. Leave the premises immediately and call **911**. The Service de sécurité incendie will measure the level of carbon monoxide in the air and determine its source.
- Do not return until you receive the all-clear from the Service de sécurité incendie or the gas company expert.

When and where should carbon monoxide detectors be installed?

A carbon monoxide detector must be installed:

- In any building with fuel-burning appliances.
- In any building with an attached garage.

The detector must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and, in hallways leading onto a bedrooms, within 5 metres of each door.

Change the battery!

Detectors are only useful if they are in good working condition. We recommend that the battery of your carbon monoxide detector be changed every time you set your clock backwards or forwards in the spring and fall.