Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety Checklist

Use this checklist to audit your home and make sure you're protected from carbon monoxide exposure.



What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas that can make you seriously ill or even be fatal. It's produced when fuels like natural gas, propane, oil, wood, or charcoal burn incompletely — often from appliances we use every day. Because you can't see, smell, or taste CO, the only way to know if it's building up to dangerous levels is by installing a working alarm.

This checklist will help you assess your home and take steps to prevent CO exposure and keep your household safe.

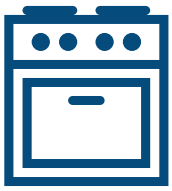
Make sure you can check off every item on our CO safety checklist.

Alarms



- [ ] A Canadian-certified CO alarm is installed on every level of the home with at least one alarm installed near sleeping areas.
- [ ] You know the difference in sounds between your CO alarm and your smoke alarm.
- [ ] CO alarms are tested monthly by pressing the test button.
- [ ] Batteries are replaced according to manufacturer instructions.
- [ ] Entire alarm units are replaced every 7–10 years, or by the date marked on the device.
- [ ] Portable CO alarms are packed for travel, RVing, or camping.
- [ ] Everyone in the house knows what to do if the alarm goes off: turn off appliances (if safe), get outside, call 911, and seek medical attention.

Gas & Fuel-Burning Appliances



- [ ] All gas fired appliances are installed by a licensed contractor and serviced annually or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- [ ] Appliance vents flues, and air supply ducts are clear of obstructions (snow, leaves, nests, debris).
- [ ] Furnace filters are replaced regularly, and chimneys are clean and unblocked.
- [ ] Areas around appliances have clearance to support with airflow and supply. Do not use furnace or boiler rooms for storage.
- [ ] No outdoor-use only appliances (BBQs, camp stoves, propane heaters, generators, lawn equipment) are used indoors.
- [ ] Portable fuel-burning devices are stored in ventilated outdoor areas.
- [ ] Damaged, rusted, or cracked appliance parts are repaired immediately.

Home Ventilation & Airflow



- [ ] After renovations or adding/replacing new appliances (e.g., kitchen exhaust fan, air-conditioner), a licensed contractor has checked air pressure balance.



If you cannot check off all of the items in this list, your home may not be CO safe.

Take action now before it's too late — install missing alarms, schedule inspections, and address any ventilation issues.

More Information

Get more tips on preventing CO exposure on our CO Safety page or find a licensed gas contractor in your area.