

What Can Create A Carbon Monoxide Hazard?

- Fuel-burning appliances, venting systems and chimneys that have not been serviced and maintained regularly by a qualified service technician or heating contractor
- Chimney blocked by debris (animal nest, snow, ice, etc.)
- Improper venting of a furnace or cracked furnace heat exchangers
- Exhaust fumes seeping into your home from a car running in an attached garage
- Using fuel-burning appliances designed for outdoor use (barbecues, lanterns, chainsaws, lawnmowers, snow blowers) in a closed area (tent, recreational vehicle, cottage, workshop, garage)
- Combustion gases spilling into a home if too much air is being consumed by a fireplace or exhausted by kitchen/bathroom fans in a tightly sealed house

Where Can I Get More Information?

Richmond Hill Fire Prevention Division
905-883-5444
RichmondHill.ca/Fire

Enbridge Distribution Gas
1-877-362-7434

Technical Standards & Safety Authority (TSSA)
416-734-3300

Emergency
9-1-1

Richmond Hill Fire & Emergency Services
wants you to know about...

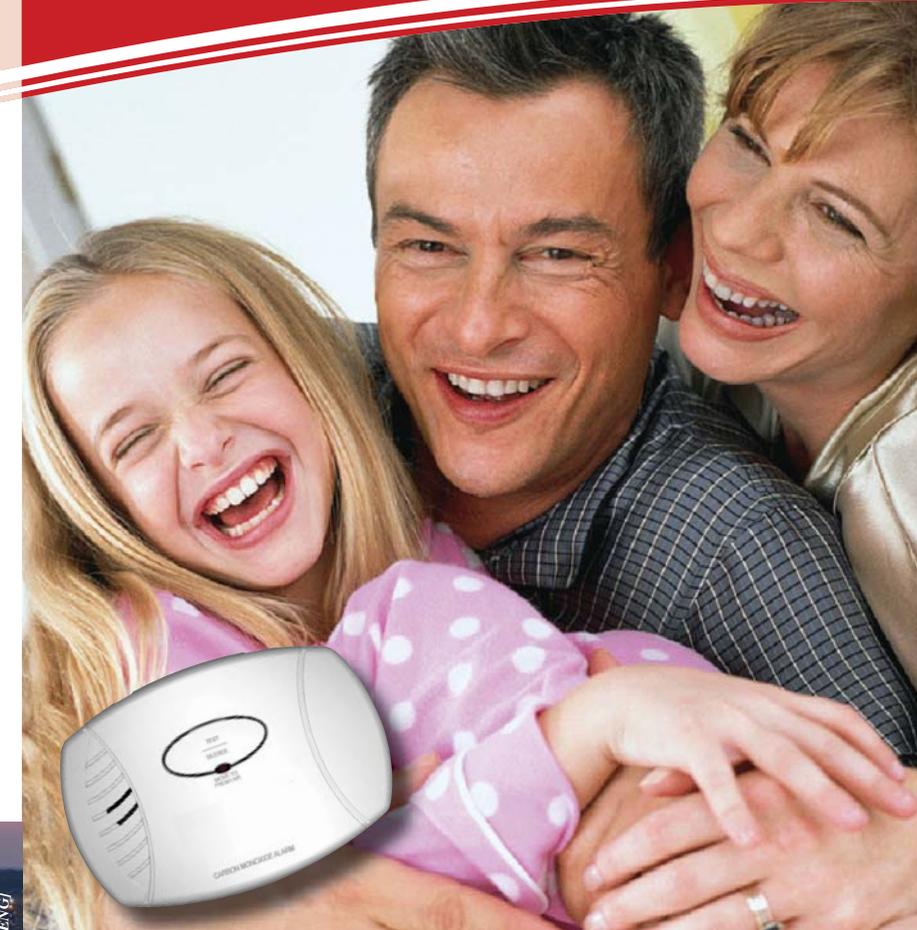
Carbon Monoxide

Protect yourself from the silent killer.

Carbon Monoxide Around Your Home



To obtain information about the Town of Richmond Hill in your preferred language, please call Access Richmond Hill at 905-771-8800.



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Richmond Hill



Why Should I Care About Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (also called CO) is a poisonous gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. It is often referred to as the “silent killer.” Many Canadians die every year from carbon monoxide in their homes. Hundreds of Canadians are hospitalized every year from carbon monoxide poisoning, many of whom become permanently disabled. **88 per cent of all homes have something that poses a carbon monoxide threat.**

What Is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, toxic gas. CO is produced by the incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, propane, heating oil, kerosene, coal, charcoal or wood.

Carbon monoxide enters the body through the lungs during the normal breathing process. It replaces oxygen in the blood and prevents the flow of oxygen to the heart, brain and other vital organs.



What Should I Do If My Carbon Monoxide Detector Starts Beeping?

If your carbon monoxide detector starts beeping and people **ARE** showing signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, leave your house immediately and call 9-1-1 from a neighbour's house. Do not open any windows, leave the house right away.

Even if no one is experiencing signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, call 9-1-1 and Fire & Emergency Services will proceed to your house to check for carbon monoxide.

How Do I Tell If There Is Carbon Monoxide in My Home?

Without a working carbon monoxide detector, you can't.



What Are The Signs Of Carbon Monoxide Illness?

Personal Symptoms

- Headache, nausea, burning eyes, fainting, confusion, drowsiness
- Often mistaken for common ailments like the flu
- Symptoms improve when away from the home for a period of time
- Symptoms experienced by more than one member of the household
- Continued exposure or exposure to higher levels may result in unconsciousness, brain damage and death
- People with heart or respiratory conditions may be particularly sensitive to carbon monoxide
- Children are at greater risk

Environment

- Air feels stale/stuffy
- Excessive moisture on windows or walls
- Burner and pilot light flames are yellow/orange, not blue
- Pilot light on the furnace or water heater goes out
- Chalky, white powder or soot buildup occurs around exhaust vent or chimney

How Can I Protect Myself And My Family?

- Install a carbon monoxide detector in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. At least one outside of sleeping area; one on each level is always better.
- Have a qualified service professional inspect your fuel burning appliance(s) at least once a year.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned every year by a W.E.T.T. (Wood Energy Technical Training) certified professional.
- Be sure your carbon monoxide detector has been certified to the Underwriters Laboratories Canada (ULC) standard.

You must have at least one working carbon monoxide detector installed in your home. It's the law!

