

Provided by The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

IS THERE A "SILENT KILLER" IN YOUR HOME?

Carbon monoxide is called the "silent killer" because you can't see, smell or taste it. And it's lethal!

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in North America. An approved CO alarm is THE ONLY SAFE WAY to alert you and your family to this gas inside your home.

You need a carbon monoxide alarm if you have:



Gas water heater



Attached garage or carport



Fireplace (wood or gas)



Gas furnace



Gas range

ESSENTIAL CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY INFORMATION

Cold weather tips to protect your family from CO tragedy

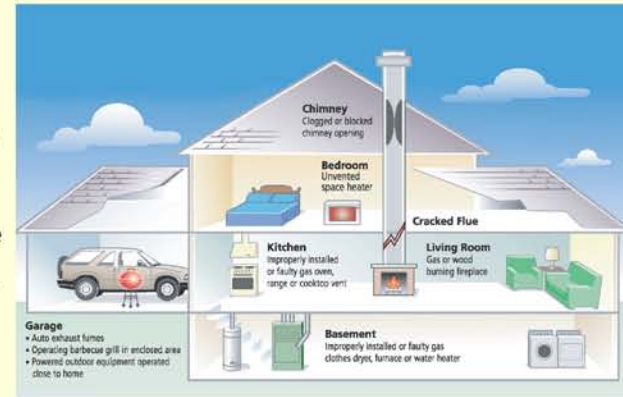
Exposure to carbon monoxide can be deadly. You can't see it, smell it or taste it and every winter, too many Canadian families experience tragedies or near-misses caused by this lethal gas.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends that, for the best protection, you install one carbon monoxide alarm on every storey of your home. Never cut corners when it comes to CO protection for your family! Maximize your peace of mind by installing the correct number of approved carbon monoxide alarms.



Do you need CO Alarms for YOUR home?

Appliances that use gas, oil, wood, coal or any other kind of fossil fuel produce carbon monoxide during combustion. Sources in your home can include your furnace, water heater, wood stove, fireplace, oven and of course automotive exhaust. Normally these appliances are vented outside, but if there is a leak or poor installation, tragedy looms. Your ONLY protection is an approved carbon monoxide alarm.



One Is Not Enough... Maximize Your Family's Protection!

To protect your family, **STEP ONE** is to have a licensed inspector give your fuel-burning systems the all-clear every year before you use them. **STEP TWO** is to add CO alarms to your home – one per storey is recommended by the National Fire Protection Association plus, at a minimum, outside sleeping areas. When you buy a carbon monoxide alarm, make sure it has a CSA 6.19-01 certification on the packaging. For families with older parents or relatives, it is also wise to help them inspect their CO alarms as well.

CO ALARMS WEAR OUT - REPLACE THEM!

CO alarms wear out. So be sure to replace them every 5-7 years to upgrade to more advanced CO-sensing technologies and new innovative safety features. Remember too that some CO alarms have batteries in case of power failure in your home. So install fresh batteries at least once per year. Also – consider an alarm with a digital display screen that will show you the CO level in your home. This makes it easier to spot changes in your home's air quality that could indicate a potential problem.



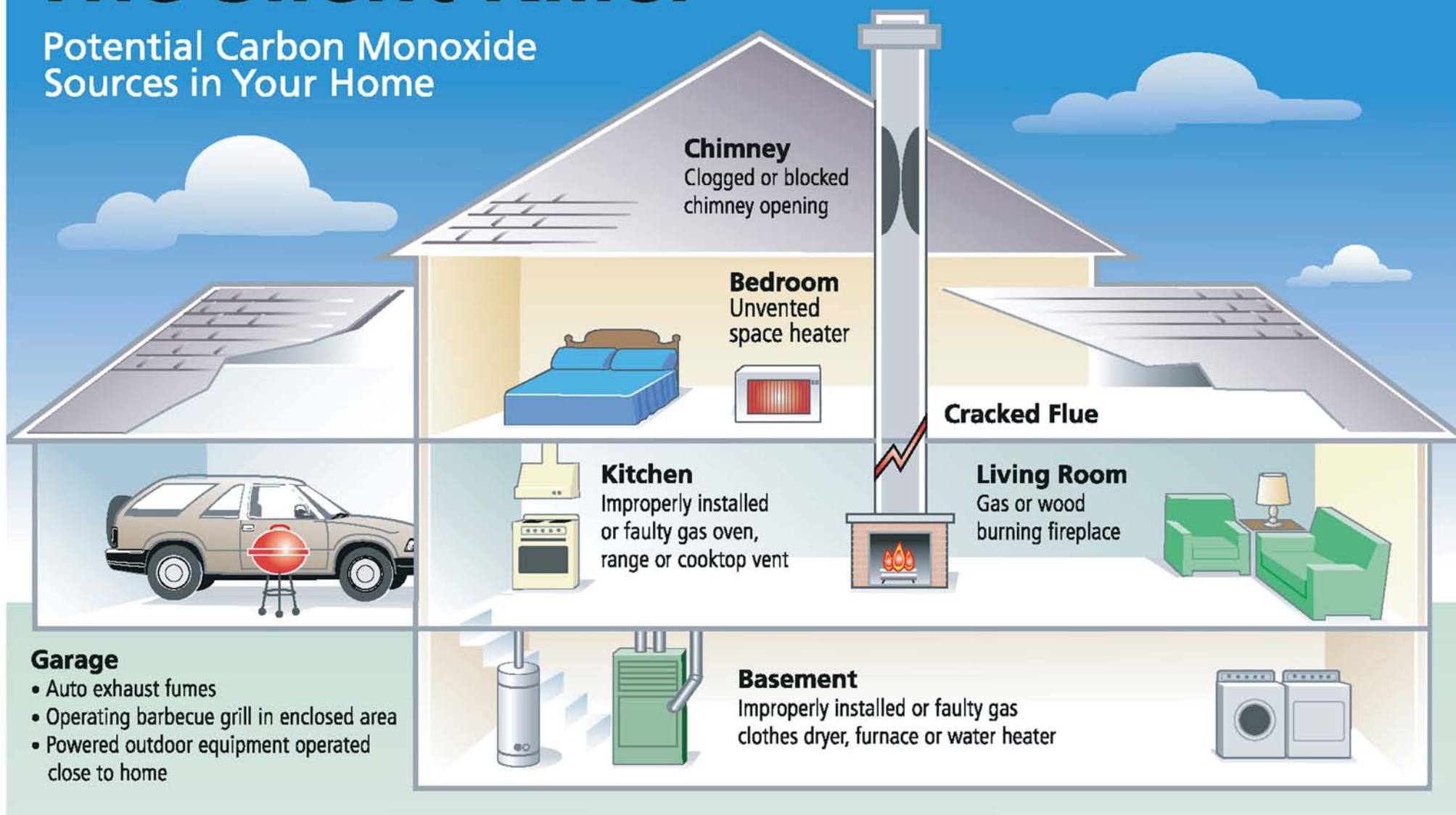
WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CO ALARMS GO OFF!

Exposure to carbon monoxide reduces your ability to think clearly, so never delay if your alarm goes off or you sense there's a problem. Get everyone out of the house and stay out, then call the fire department or 911.

More carbon monoxide safety tips for your home can be found on the www.SafeAtHome.ca web site.

The Silent Killer

Potential Carbon Monoxide Sources in Your Home



Carbon Monoxide is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths. The odorless, tasteless and colorless gas, known as "The Silent Killer" is undetectable to human senses. CO is produced by common household appliance that burn fossil fuels, including gas or oil furnaces, water heaters, clothes dryers, space heaters, gas ovens and wood burning or gas fireplaces. Other potential sources include cracked flues or blocked chimneys, car exhaust fumes entering the house from an attached garage, lawnmowers, propane garage heaters, power washers and propane fired pool heaters. Early symptoms of CO poisoning such as headaches, nausea and fatigue are often mistaken for the flu and the gas goes undetected in the home. Prolonged exposure to CO can lead to brain damage and even death. Installing a carbon monoxide alarm on each level of the home is the first line of defense homeowners have against this household hazard.