



What You Can't Smell Can Hurt You

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a poisonous yet odorless gas produced when carbon based fuels such as coal, oil, gasoline, propane, wood and natural gas are incompletely burned. A constant supply of fresh air is essential for the complete combustion of any fuel. If there is not enough oxygen, CO is produced. CO then seeks oxygen in the lungs, depriving the cells in your body of needed oxygen. The early stages of CO poisoning include: Dizziness, Flu-like symptoms, Fatigue, Throbbing headache.

You would be wise to suspect CO poisoning if you fell ill or if all the members of your family feel ill at the same time.

Any fuel burning furnace, water heater, fireplace, stove or space heater can produce CO, especially if any of these situations exist: Leaking or blocked flues and chimneys, Plugged dryer vents, Prolonged downdraft in a chimney or vent stack, Dirty gas stove burners, Cracked heat exchanger chamber, Poor house ventilation, Loose vents on furnaces, water heater and boilers.

Never use gas ovens and ranges for heat, or operate camp stoves, propane grills or charcoal grills inside. Have your furnace, other gas appliances and your chimney inspected. Purchase CO detectors for your home, make sure your CO detectors meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards, and then place the CO detectors near your furnace and sleeping areas.

If you suspect CO poisoning, or if you have a CO detector and the alarm sounds, leave your home immediately. If you or a family member is ill, obtain medical attention. Call [Cit](#) from another location or, during business hours, call your heating dealer so they can make any necessary repairs. Never stay in a building where you suspect leaking CO.



Caring for Your Gas Meter in Winter

Outdoor natural gas meters and/or pressure regulator sets are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions. But please remember to protect them from ice and snow build-ups during our harsh winter months.

Clean and repair your leaky eaves gutters regularly to prevent ice and melting snow from dripping onto the natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator set causing them to be encased in ice when the weather is cold.

Do not pile snow against your natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator set when shoveling or using a snow blower.

Never allow snow to completely cover your natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator set. Remove soft snow build-up gently, using only a broom or your hand. Call [City of Hawarden Municipal Utilities 712.551.2565](#) if you notice an ice build-up on any part of the natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator set. Do not try to remove it by kicking or hitting the gas meter or piping.

**Natural Gas Isn't
Dangerous, but its
Misuse is!**



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**