



# Carbon Monoxide Detectors Mandatory

## New Legislation in Ontario

The Provincial Government has recently passed a bill that will require most homes in Ontario to be equipped with a [carbon monoxide detector](#).

The law, similar to the requirement for smoke detectors, will be enforced by local fire departments under the Fire Prevention and Protection Act and is expected to take effect in early 2014.

Homeowners will face a fine of approximately \$200 if their home is not equipped with a working detector.

### What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odourless, colourless gas found in combustion fumes produced by cars and trucks, small gas engines, stoves, lanterns, burning charcoal and wood and gas ranges and heating systems. A leak or lack of proper ventilation can cause sudden illness or death. Working CO detectors are **the most effective** way to detect unsafe carbon monoxide levels in the home.\*

\*Carbon monoxide detectors do not eliminate the need for regular inspection, maintenance and safe use of fuel-burning equipment. Take the time to ensure you are using the equipment properly.

## What should you do?

- It is ideal to have a carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home (especially near sources of CO), but if you only have one, it should be placed just outside the sleeping area.
- Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed between knee and chest height on the wall and should not be blocked by furniture, draperies or other obstructions.
- The units have a life span of about 7 years. Check yours to make sure it is up to date.
- They range in price from about \$25 to \$60. Mid-range units have a screen that displays the level of CO in the house.
- A unit with a battery back-up will ensure it continues to work during a power outage.

Most local hardware and building supply stores carry carbon monoxide detectors. Take action as soon as possible.

An example of a CO Detector with digital screen



For more information, see the Office of the Fire Marshal web page on the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services website: [www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca](http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca)