

## Carbon Monoxide: The ‘Silent Killer’

As winter nears, we will be spending more time indoors using our heaters and fuel burning appliances, which increases our risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas that if inhaled in unsafe amounts can be fatal. Fortunately, carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable, if you keep these tips in mind:

- Have your heating system, hot water heater, and fuel-burning appliances inspected annually.
- Turn on your exhaust fan or open a window anytime you use your stove.
- During and after storms inspect your gas dryer, stove, furnace, or fireplace to ensure the vents are not blocked.
- If you have a wood-burning fireplace or stove, ensure the flue is clean and working properly. Keep the flue open so gases escape until all embers are completely out.
- Never idle your car in an enclosed garage.



- Do not use a kerosene heater, gas barbecue, or generator inside your house.
- Have at least one carbon monoxide detector on every floor and near sleeping areas and ensure it's certified by national safety standards.
- Replace your device before the expiry date or for battery-operated devices, change the batteries every 6 months. If you have a plug-in alarm, ensure it has a back-up battery.

If your carbon monoxide alarm goes off, escape your house to fresh air immediately and call 9-1-1.



## Lighting Up Your Outdoor Space

With November here, if you like to be outside, you may be thinking it's getting too dark, too early. But don't despair – read on for some stylish outdoor lighting options to light up your outdoor space.

**String lights** – String around the top of your porch, pergola, or around a tree for a whimsy vibe. Choose classic Edison-style bulbs or various takes on fairy, twinkly-style lights.

**Waterproof rope lights** – Well-suited for under railings or around the bottom perimeter of a deck, making for a nice ambiance after dark.

**Lanterns** – Great for tables and for layering with other lights.

**Pendant lamps** – Hang a few from pergolas or porch ceilings in different sizes for a multi-dimensional look.

**Solar lights** – These automatically light up at dusk, relying on the power of the sun to charge their batteries during the day. A variety of options are available, such as lights for your walkway, stairs, or railings.

Opt for LED lights, which attract fewer bugs because of the reduced UV emissions, and ensure they are outdoor-grade to withstand the elements.

For visual inspiration and price points, check online.

## Preventing Porch Pirates

With the holidays just around the corner, you may soon have more packages delivered to your home, increasing the chances of being a victim of package theft. Statistics show that package theft spikes just after Black Friday and continues throughout the holiday season. So, when you place your order, what can you do to ensure your package ends up in the right hands?

1. Use package tracking to track your delivery so you can pick it up as soon as possible or have a neighbour pick it up.
2. Select a secure pick-up location and have your items delivered there.
3. Have it shipped to your workplace if it is allowed by your employer.
4. Purchase a secure delivery box and provide delivery instructions for unlocking it.
5. Specify that you would like to sign for the delivery so it won't be left at your front door if you're not at home.
6. Some companies have smart technology options so they can let themselves inside your garage or home to drop off your package. Note you need to have the appropriate smart technology installed to use this service.
7. Have a video doorbell installed as a deterrent.



With online shopping projected to continue to become even more popular in the coming years, having a plan to protect your packages when you are away can save you a headache you don't need.