



Clarington Emergency & Fire Services
www.bepreparednotscared.ca

SAFETY ADVISORY

HOME HEATING

Clarington: Just like your vehicle, your home heating equipment needs regular maintenance to work safely and efficiently.

All Heating Equipment

- Buy appliances certified by a recognized testing agency, such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC). Certified appliances will be marked with the symbol of the testing agency.
- Always follow manufacturer's instructions when installing and operating equipment.
- Supervise children and pets when they are in the room with heating equipment. Keep children away from heating equipment.

Furnaces and Water Heaters

- Have your furnace inspected/serviced once a year by a qualified heating contractor.
- Oil-fired furnaces and oil tanks must be inspected and certified. Visit www.tssa.org for additional information.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a qualified person (i.e. WETT certified technician).
- The pilot flame can ignite flammable liquid vapours, so keep flammable liquids and chemicals (gasoline, solvents etc.) away from furnaces and water heaters.

Space Heaters

- Keep the area around space heaters clear. There should be at least one metre (three feet) of clear space in all directions around a space heater.
- Make sure that blankets, clothes, or other combustible materials are not in a position to fall on or near a space heater.
- Areas surrounding space heaters should not become too hot to touch.
- A space heater should not be used to dry clothes.
- Use only the fuel for which the heater was designed.
- Inspect cords on electrical heaters. If cords are frayed, split, or overheat during operation, the unit may possibly be a fire hazard.
- Electric space heaters should be plugged directly into outlet (no extension cords).
- Turn space heaters off when you leave the room, your home or go to bed. Do not leave unattended.
- Electric space heaters should shut off automatically if tipped over.
- Kerosene heaters are not for indoor use; it is illegal to sell them for this purpose.



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Wood and Coal Stoves and Heaters

- Have your woodstove inspected by a qualified person (i.e. WETT certified technician) to verify proper installation.
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned by a qualified person (i.e. WETT certified technician) as often as necessary to keep it clear of combustible deposits. At a minimum, once a year.
- Use only the fuel for which the stove or heater was designed. Don't use flammable/combustible liquids to start a fire.

Fireplaces

- Have your chimney checked and cleaned each year by a qualified person (i.e. WETT certified technician).
- Always supervise a fire. Make sure a fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen that covers the entire front of fireplace to catch stray sparks and prevent them from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and wood stove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container with a lid.
- The ash can should then be placed outside away from the house and other combustibles.
- Burn small amounts of dry, well-seasoned wood to reduce creosote build-up. Don't burn scrap paper, Christmas trees or other waste in the fireplace.

Carbon Monoxide

- All fuel-burning appliances need a supply of fresh air to burn properly. Without proper ventilation and maintenance, fuel burning heating equipment could produce carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.
- Check that all appliances have proper ventilation to the outside.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

General Safety

- Install and maintain smoke alarms on each storey of your home and outside each sleeping area. Test monthly.
- If your power is out, use flashlights. Avoid using candles.
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Gas barbecues and charcoal grills are not for use indoors. They give off deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in an accessible location, near an exit.

For additional information, please contact Clarington Emergency and Fire Services at 905-623-5126.

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