

NATURAL GAS

WINTER SAFETY TIPS



1. Never use a gas range, oven or stove to heat your home!

2. Never use clothes dryer exhaust as a source of heat. All clothes dryers must be exhausted to the outdoors.

3. Have your natural gas appliances and furnace inspected at least once per year.

Keep the area around them clear and clean.

- Never store rugs, furniture, boxes, rags, mops, paper or anything flammable like paint or cleaning supplies near your gas appliances or furnace.
- Vacuum around your furnace and other gas appliances to also keep them free of dust, lint, dirt and pet hair.

4. Have a qualified professional regularly clean and inspect your natural gas appliances' venting and exhaust systems.

- Snow, ice, bird nests and stink bugs have all been cited as a cause for natural gas appliance vent problems.

5. Change furnace filters regularly. Doing so will help maintain efficiency and lower the amount of natural gas you use.

6. Keep your gas meter clear.

- Remove snow and ice from natural gas meters using a brush or broom. Never kick or hit the meter with a hard object.
- Do not use electric heat tape, heat guns, light bulbs etc. to warm gas meters. These are all potential ignition sources.
- Keeping your meter clear also allows for safer access to your meter for testing, reading and emergencies.

7. Check for snow and ice accumulation around appliance vents and exhausts.

Be sure to keep them clear. Some natural gas appliances will "lock out" and not operate if the vent is not clear.

8. Make sure you and your family are familiar with the "rotten egg" smell of natural gas. If you suspect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately and call Peoples at 1-800-400-4271 or call 911.

9. Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

CO is a colorless, odorless, and potentially deadly gas. Be sure to test your CO detectors and replace the batteries regularly!

10. Know the signs of carbon monoxide.

Some examples of possible CO include:

- A yellow or flickering pilot light or flame. Pilots and burners should have a steady blue flame. (Note: Some decorative natural gas appliances listed as "vent-less," such as vent-less logs, are designed to operate with a yellow flame.)
- An unusually strong odor known as aldehydes. Some describe the odor as that of burning Styrofoam or diesel exhaust.
- Unexplained nausea, drowsiness, watering eyes, or flu-like symptoms.
- Excessive moisture.
- Soot build-up near appliances.

Learn more at
peoples-gas.com/winter.

Remember! If you think carbon monoxide is present in your home or building, evacuate immediately and call Peoples at 1-800-400-4271 or call 911. Seek medical attention if anyone is experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.