AUTUMN WATCH

Your handbook for a safer Autumn.

safetyinfo.ca

TECHNICAL STANDARDS & SAFETY AUTHORITY TSSA

Home Heating Safety | CO Safety | Renovations and Maintenance | Escalator and Elevator Safety

AutumnWatch is a seasonal public safety awareness handbook. It is designed to provide you with the information you need to reduce risk and keep your family safe.

As the weather turns colder and the days get shorter, more time is spent indoors. Important safety themes such as home heating, fireplaces, electrical appliances, cooking and holiday decorations need to be considered.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council wants you to be on AutumnWatch to help keep you and your family safe, while enjoying all that this beautiful season has to offer.

Safety Partners

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council thank the following safety sponsors for participating in this year's AutumnWatch program.

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Have You Had Your Furnace Inspected?

TECHNICAL STANDARDS & SAFETY AUTHORITY TSSA

Your furnace needs to be inspected annually by a certified heating contractor to maintain peak efficiency and protect your family from the dangers of carbon monoxide.

It is the smart thing to do and it is your responsibility.

Be sure to use a certified heating contractor registered by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority. To ensure a contractor is registered, visit COSafety.ca for confirmation.

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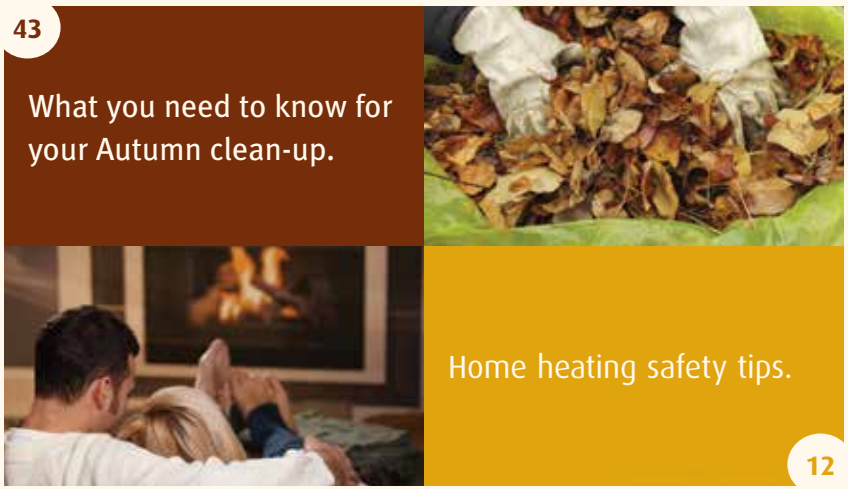

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Be on "AutumnWatch"

As the weather gets cooler and the days get shorter, we tend to spend more time indoors, enjoying home with friends and family.

Be on "AutumnWatch" this fall season to protect your family and friends from preventable incidents and injuries in your home.

CO Safety

As the autumn weather settles in and temperatures get cooler we look to things like our furnaces or gas fireplaces to warm up our homes. With that, CO exposure can be a hazard and can have life-threatening consequences.

Four Steps to CO Safety

To keep your home safe from CO hazards, follow these four steps:

1. Be aware of the hazard. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odourless and poisonous gas produced by common household appliances such as your furnace, fireplace, gas stove, propane heater, kerosene lantern or any other fuel-burning equipment.

2. Eliminate CO at the source. Get your home's fuel-burning appliances and equipment inspected by a certified technician who works for a TSSA-registered heating contractor. To ensure a technician is registered, visit the **Find a Contractor** section of COSafety.ca.

3. Install certified CO alarms. They will warn you of rising CO levels, giving you time to take potentially life-saving action. For proper installation locations, follow manufacturer's instructions or ask your local fire department.

4. Know the symptoms of CO poisoning. They are similar to the flu – nausea, headache, burning eyes, confusion and drowsiness – except there is no fever. If they appear, immediately get everyone, including pets, outside to fresh air and call 911 and/or your local fire department.

Alarm Yourself

In addition to ensuring that your home's fuel-burning equipment has been inspected professionally, your next important line of defence against CO is having properly installed and maintained alarms.

When it comes to alarms, follow these tips:

Install CO alarms:

- On every level of your home
- Near sleeping areas
- According to manufacturer's instructions

NOT near:

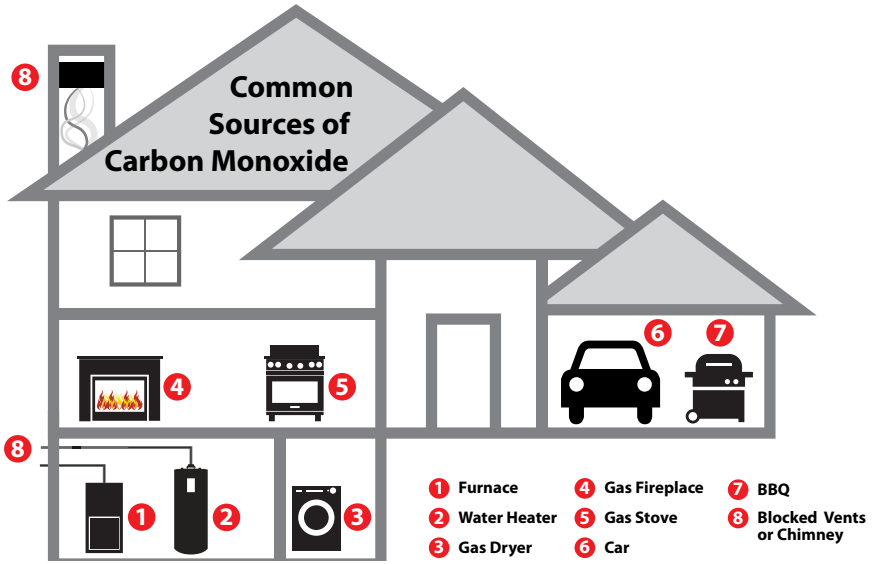
- Windows or vents
- Bathrooms
- Heating or fuel-burning appliances
- Smoke alarms (unless combination alarm)

Checklist

- ☐ Test CO and smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button
- ☐ Replace batteries once a year, including back-up batteries for plug-in alarms; use fall daylight savings time as a reminder
- ☐ Replace CO alarms when required

CO alarms wear out over time. Check the manufacturer's instructions to find out when your particular unit should be replaced (usually after 7-10 years for CO alarms and 10 years for smoke alarms).

The Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners recommends that you know your fire department's phone number and keep it posted by every phone in your home.



You can help prevent carbon monoxide from harming you and your family by:

1. **Getting an annual inspection for all fuel-fired appliances in your home.**
2. **Installing and regularly testing carbon monoxide alarms.**

TAKE ACTION
COSafety.ca

TECHNICAL STANDARDS & SAFETY AUTHORITY TSSA

Home Heating Safety

In Canada, we depend on our heating systems to keep us safe and warm at home. It not only makes sense to check and maintain your furnace and/or fireplace, but it is vitally important.

An Annual Inspection is a Must

Heating systems that burn fuel such as gas or oil need to be inspected and maintained annually. It is the only way to ensure efficient and safe operation.

For furnaces, while you can and should change filters and check for leaks, the only person qualified to inspect your natural gas, propane or oil furnace is a certified heating contractor.

All certified heating contractors are registered with TSSA. If you are unsure if your contractor is registered, **visit COSafety.ca** for confirmation.

Remember; furnace and fireplace inspections are your responsibility. If you do not arrange it, it will not get done. Do not forget to have your furnace, fireplace or any fuel-fired appliance inspected annually!

Getting started:

- Ask a friend or your fuel supplier for recommendations
- Obtain at least three written estimates specifying the work to be done, who will do the work, as well as start and completion dates
- Determine whether repairs are covered by a warranty; avoid 'fly-by-nighters', especially people who show up at your door offering special deals

Your Home Heating System

To keep your home heating system working the way it should this season there are actions that you as the owner can take, but there are things that need to be performed by a professional.

Safety Tips

Do-It-Yourself

- Examine the heating system occasionally for signs of deterioration, such as water stains, corrosion or leakage; in forced-air systems, clean the furnace air filters frequently – at least twice a heating season
- Keep the area around the furnace free from dust, lint, rags, paint, drain cleaners and other materials or chemicals that could catch fire or explode if they become too hot
- Make sure warm-air outlets and cold-air outlets are not covered by carpets or blocked by debris
- Make sure walls, other obstructions or new renovations do not block the heating system's air supply

Call a professional

- If your heating system stops working, check the electrical fuse, the switch and the thermostat, and then call for a heating technician
- If snow or ice covers your outdoor regulator, contact your fuel supplier
- Under no circumstances should unqualified people tamper with heating systems; if you have questions or concerns, contact a qualified heating contractor or call TSSA at 1-877-682-8772 (TSSA)

Gas Fireplaces – Too Hot for Tots

Every year, children are burned from contact with the glass barrier at the front of a gas fireplace. Statistics show that contact burns – injuries sustained when a part of the body touches a hot object – are the second leading cause of burns in children.

Children have been burned when they have fallen towards the gas fireplace and have pushed up against the hot glass for balance. Serious third-degree burns are the result. Others have touched the glass only for a moment out of curiosity. It takes just two seconds to be seriously burned. Many children have been burned while parents are in the room.

Children are not only at risk for burns when the gas fireplace is in use but before and after use too. The glass barrier can heat up to more than 200°C in about six minutes during use. It takes an average of 45 minutes for the fireplace to cool to a safe temperature after a fire has been extinguished. Some children have even been burned when the fireplace is not in use, by the heat from the ignition light. Children are at risk of a burn injury whenever they are around a gas fireplace.

Young children under five years of age are at an increased risk for getting burned by the glass barrier

Young children under two years, are at an even greater risk for getting burned by the glass barrier

To keep your child safe around gas fireplaces:

- Never leave a young child alone near a gas fireplace; they can be burned before, during, and after use of the fireplace
- Create a barrier around the gas fireplace; safety guards can be installed to keep your child at a safe distance at all times
- Teach children about the dangers of fire; children are fascinated by heat and fire and may not understand the dangers
- Consider not using the fireplace if you have young children less than five years of age, using it only after your children have gone to sleep, or consider turning the unit off completely, including the ignition flame, whenever the unit is not in use
- Be aware of contact burn dangers from irons, curling irons, radiators, older oven doors, wood-burning stoves, and fireplaces

45 MINUTES

It takes an average of 45 minutes for the fireplace to cool to a safe temperature after a fire has been extinguished

FACTS ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas.
- You can't see it, smell it or taste it.
- It can be produced by common household appliances.
- A few important steps can help keep you and your family safe.
  - Get an annual inspection for all fuel-fired appliances in your home
  - Install a CO alarm (on every floor level)

Can you SPOT the 7 DIFFERENCES?

TAKE ACTION
COSafety.ca

Answers: 1. Inspector in basement 2. Chimney is clear 3. Outside vent is clear 4. CO alarms on each floor 5. Car is not running in garage 6. Cars are different colours 7. Bed **House A is CO safe, because of answers 1-5**

TECHNICAL STANDARDS & SAFETY AUTHORITY TSSA

Your Wood Stove or Fireplace

This time of year, it can be comforting to curl up beside a crackling fireplace, or gather family and friends around the warmth of a wood stove. Take the necessary steps now to ensure that wood stoves and fireplaces are operating properly and free of potential hazards.

Watch for the warning signs

Look for corrosion or rust on the outer shell of a metal chimney. Watch for bulges or corrosion of the liner as well. Loose bricks, crumbling mortar, dark stains and white powder all indicate problems with a masonry chimney. It should be repaired immediately by a certified heating contractor or mason.

Check stove pipes and connections

Ensure that screws are located at every joint and that each connection is a tight, secure fit. Also, look for signs of dark staining or white powder (also referred to as leeching) at every joint. Rust is a clear sign that it is time to replace the stove pipe.

Check walls for excessive heat

If the wall above your fireplace or wood stove gets very hot, it could be a sign of improper chimney installation and a potential fire hazard.

Protect walls and floors from heat and sparks

Keep combustible objects away from your wood stove or fireplace and always use a properly fitted screen to cover the fireplace opening. Floors and walls should be protected with non-combustible shields.

When in doubt, call an expert

The safest and most practical way to handle the annual maintenance of your chimney, woodstove and fireplace is to contact a WETT* certified Chimney Sweep. It is a relatively small investment for peace of mind.

**Wood Energy Technology Transfer*

Your Portable Space Heater

Electric space heaters are a handy way to add a little extra warmth to one corner of your home without turning up the furnace. However, electric space heaters can be a hazard if used improperly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and these safety tips to stay safe and warm:

- Never use space heaters to dry flammable items such as clothing or blankets
- Keep all flammable objects at least one metre away from space heaters
- If you use an extension cord, make sure it is the right size and gauge to carry the electrical load being drawn by the space heater
- Never use an electrical space heater in a wet area or any area that can be exposed to water
- Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use

Never use fuel-burning portable space heaters (such as propane or kerosene) in any enclosed space, as it can lead to deadly carbon monoxide exposure

Improper use of space heaters is one of the leading causes of fires and carbon monoxide exposure in homes and cottages.

Fresh Air – Let Your House Breathe

In attempting to conserve energy and reduce our heating costs, we can sometimes make our homes too air tight. In fact, for a house to be healthy, it needs to "breathe". It needs to expel moisture and other gases from inside and take in a constant supply of fresh air from outside.

When a fuel-burning appliance in your home does not get enough fresh air and fails to completely burn its fuel, carbon monoxide is produced.

If ventilation is damaged or blocked, or if you have a powerful kitchen fan, bathroom fan or open hearth fireplace, then carbon monoxide can be drawn back inside the house.

Exhaust fans can compound the problem

Be mindful that the air you exhaust from your home has to be replaced. Powerful exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens or open hearth wood-burning fireplaces can actually create a negative pressure inside your home, resulting in a backdraft which will draw exhaust fumes from your furnace, hot water heater or other appliances back into the house.

How can you tell if your home is too air tight?

- The air inside your home is usually stuffy and stale
- Excessive condensation is dripping down your windows (which could also mean your humidifier is set too high, so check that first)
- The pilot light on your gas appliance keeps going out
- A gas flame burns yellow instead of blue (except in the case of a natural gas fireplace)
- The smell of exhaust gases is present in your home; although you cannot smell carbon monoxide, other exhaust gases do have an odour

If you see any of these signs, contact a certified heating contractor or a building ventilation expert to check your home and correct the problem

Consider these solutions:

Air exchanger

If your home is tightly sealed to make it energy efficient, consider investing in a professionally installed air exchange system. It exchanges the air inside your home for fresh outside air every 24 hours, without wasting heat.

Direct feed

When renovating or building, consider installing heating systems and appliances that have a direct feed of outside air for combustion, so they do not draw air from inside the home. The combustion chambers are sealed so they are safer and more energy efficient.

Fuel and Fire Safety

Gasoline is a common fuel around the home. It powers our lawnmowers, chainsaws, snow blowers, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and more. But, despite its everyday use, it's important not to underestimate the dangers of gasoline.

Treat Fuel with Care

When running a gas-powered engine:

- Keep a BC Class fire extinguisher handy. Water will only spread the flames of a gasoline-based fire
- Never work or idle in an enclosed space such as a garage, basement or tent
- Allow equipment to cool down for a few minutes before refuelling

Storage

Do not leave gasoline in the basement of your home or in the cottage. Store fuel in approved containers in a detached garage or shed, and well away from heat sources including direct sunlight.

Filling Containers

- Only use fuel containers that have been certified by an accredited certification organization such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC)
- Keep well away from sparks or ignition sources
- Fill only to about 90 per cent of capacity to allow some room for expansion
- When filling, keep portable containers on the ground, with the dispensing nozzle in full contact with the container in order to prevent buildup and discharge of static electricity – a possible source of ignition
- When you are finished refilling the container, tighten both the fill and vent caps
- Never leave the container in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car

Disposal

The best way to dispose of gasoline is to use it up. Small amounts can be left outside to evaporate – leave in an open container away from children and pets.

If gasoline must be discarded, be sure to take it to the hazardous waste disposal centre in your area. Never pour gasoline onto the ground, down sewers or into drains.

Fire Safety in Apartment Buildings

Q: Does your apartment have at least one working smoke alarm? ➔Test monthly and replace batteries annually to ensure it works properly.

Q: Do you have a roll of duct tape? ➔Duct tape is a special tape available from hardware stores. Use it to block smoke from entering your apartment through spaces around your doors, vents and other openings.

Q: Do you know how you are going to escape from your building if there is a fire? ➔Most apartment buildings have at least two exit stairways. Find out where these are and practice using them. Know which floors you can use to cross from one stairway to another.

Q: Have you told your landlord or building manager that you will need help in an emergency? ➔Your apartment number can be added to the fire safety plan, so fire fighters will know that you may need to be rescued.

Q: Do you know where the fire alarms are on your floor, and how to pull them? ➔Ask your landlord or building manager where they are and how to use them.

Q: Have you arranged a place outside the building where you will meet everyone you share your apartment with after you leave? ➔Having a meeting place gives you confidence that everyone got out safely.

Q: Do you know the telephone number to call if there is a fire? ➔Keep this telephone number in a place where you can find it fast in an emergency.

Being prepared can help save your life. Talk to your building's management or fire department for more details.

INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS

IT'S THE LAW

Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

Prevent Cooking Fires

Watch what you heat

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries in Canada and the U.S., according to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). Most of these fires can be prevented by following simple fire safety steps.

Safety Tips

- Never leave cooking unattended; two out of five deaths in home cooking fires occur because the cooking was unattended
- Keep the cooking area clean; always wipe appliances and surfaces after cooking to prevent grease buildup
- Do not store combustible objects near the stove; curtains, potholders, dish towels and food packaging can easily catch fire
- Always turn pot handles inwards; turning handles toward the centre of the stove can prevent pots from being knocked off the stove or pulled down by small children
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking, fires can occur when clothing comes in contact with stovetop burners
- Do not overheat cooking oil
- Cooking oil can easily start a fire so never leave hot oil or grease-laden foods unattended; if you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn the burner down to simmer, or off completely
- Teach children about safe cooking; young children should be kept at least one metre away from the stove while older family members are cooking and older children should cook only with permission and under the supervision of a grown up

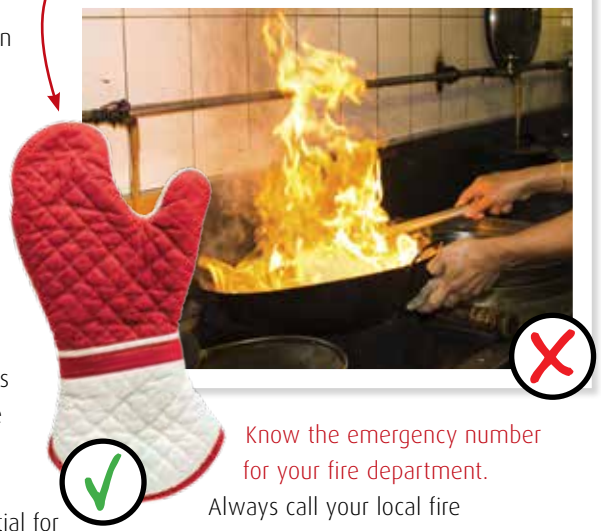
What to do if a cooking fire starts

Put a lid on it. If a pan catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan using a high cuff oven mitt and turn off the stove burner. Leave the lid on until completely cool! Do not carry the burning pan to a sink or outside. Movement may permit oxygen to the fire allowing it to ignite, or cause hot grease to spill and cause burns.

Oven or microwave: keep the door shut and turn off the heat. If flames do not go out immediately, call the fire department. Opening the oven or microwave door allows oxygen to the fire and increases the potential for the fire to spread beyond the appliance.

Never pour water on a grease fire. Water causes grease fires to flare and spread.

If a pan catches on fire, put a lid on it using a high cuff oven mitt



Know the emergency number for your fire department. Always call your local fire department before attempting to fight a fire.

Always keep a fire extinguisher at the kitchen door. Know how to use it. Only use it if you have a clear escape route and the fire department has been called first.

Know Your Fire Extinguishers

Not all fire extinguishers are alike. They are designed for specific types of fire. There are three general types of fire extinguishers:

Class A – fires involving ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth or paper;

Class B – fires involving flammable liquids, greases, gases, etc.; and

Class C – charged electrical equipment fires.

Choose a multi-purpose fire extinguisher to put out all classes of fires.

Autumn Renovations and Maintenance

Autumn is a popular time for homeowners to think about and undertake renovations. A renovation can improve the value of your home – but it takes careful planning and research to make sure you get what you want and ensure the work is done on time and within budget.

Home Renovations: Ask the right questions before you hire a contractor

Autumn is here – always a great time to consider renovations on your home.

When a renovation is done right, it can improve the look and value of your home. But when one goes wrong, it can mean a huge loss of time and money. And the end result may not be what you wanted.

To protect yourself, it is important to first do some comparison shopping. Talk to at least three contractors about your project, and compare what they are offering in terms of cost, timing and quality. Avoid going with a contractor just because he or she is "in the neighbourhood" or is offering a "special deal."

If possible, ask to visit other homeowners who used the contractor you are considering, so that you can see their work and talk to the homeowner about their experience.

When speaking to contractors, Consumer Protection Ontario recommends asking the right questions to find the best possible match for your project:

Will you provide me with a written estimate?

Getting an estimate in writing lets you know how much you can expect to pay. And remember: it is against the law for a contractor to charge you more than 10 per cent above the original estimate without you agreeing to the increase. To get this protection, the supplier must agree to include the estimate in a written contract. (See below for more on contracts).

Can you give me a written contract?

After you have agreed to an estimate, ask for a written contract, which outlines key details about your project. These include not only cost, but things like what kind of timelines you will be working with, and what materials will be involved. The contract helps protect you if things go wrong, ensuring that both you and the contractor uphold your end of the agreement. Avoid contractors who offer a cash deal. This can be a sign of an unscrupulous business.

Always get it in writing – review our contract checklist on page 32

Checklist

What should my contract cover?

In your written contract, it is important to define the scope of the project and the role the contractor will have. These decisions can affect everything from who is liable for unpaid trades work, to who is responsible for insurance, any necessary permits, and how workers' compensation coverage would work. Every decision you make carries consequences and should be thought through carefully. For example, if you are replacing carpeting with hardwood floors, your contract may cover who supplies the flooring, and who installs it. Or if you are conducting a major renovation, such as an addition to your home, you might hire a general contractor and other tradespeople, or you might act as the general contractor and hire all of the trades yourself.

Home renovations can be big, time-consuming jobs. By asking the right questions throughout your renovation, you can make your home-improvement dreams come true while having the confidence that you are spending your hard-earned money wisely and avoiding problems before they occur. Careful planning is your best asset.

*Visit **Ontario.ca/homerenos** to learn more about hiring a reliable contractor and what to include in your home renovation contract.*

CONSUMER PROTECTION ONTARIO

Visit ontario.ca/**ConsumerProtection** for more information.

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Electrical Safety Tips for the Home, Cottage and the Holidays

Planning a fall renovation? Remember there is no such thing as a small electrical mistake!

Even though you might be tempted to take on electrical work yourself, always remember that it can be more complicated than you think. There are no small mistakes when it comes to electrical work. The wise choice is to leave it to a professional.

The consequences of not doing electrical work correctly can be devastating: electrical fires account for an average of more than 390 fires in Ontario homes each year resulting in $21 million in damages annually.

Licensed Electrical Contractors know what type of work requires an electrical permit and they have the tools, training and know-how to ensure the work is done up to the standard required by the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. They will also arrange to have the work reviewed by ESA's expert electrical inspectors, which usually involves a visit to your home for a visual inspection.

Here are the three biggest reasons for hiring a licensed electrical contractor:

1. It's the only legal choice

Only Licensed Electrical Contractors are legally authorized to perform electrical work for hire in Ontario. Always ask for an ESA/ECRA licence number to make sure you're choosing the right contractor. It's the law. Check your contractor's licence at www.esasafe.com

2. It's the safest decision to make

There are many electrical dangers in everyday homes that put us and our loved ones at risk. Electrical work is dangerous and always best left to a Licensed Electrical Contractor with the expertise, equipment and training to do the job safely. Hiring the wrong person for the job can result in major property damage, or even loss of life. You may know someone who can do the work cheap, but consider the real cost if something went wrong.

3. It's insured for your protection

Did you know that: if you hire an unlicensed electrician and they get hurt on the job, you're responsible? Only Licensed Electrical Contractors are insured to protect you. They'll arrange electrical permits and inspections, and provide a Certificate of Inspection for your insurance company, giving you peace of mind. http://www.esasafe.com/electricalsmarts

It's time to close up the Cottage! Follow the Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) Cottage Closing Tips

Getting your cottage's electrical system ready for winter can help make spring opening safer and smoother. Here are some tips for closing your cottage safely:

1. Shut off each branch circuit breaker first before you turn off the main switch. This will help protect major appliances including your pump and hot water tank when you power up in the spring.
2. Store all extension cords in rodent-proof containers. Consider storing them at home where they won't be subject to freezing temperatures which can cause them to crack.
3. Walk around your property to see if trees are starting to grow too close to powerlines. Hire a professional to trim trees if you own the hydro poles on your property, or advise your utility if the poles are theirs.
4. If you're planning to leave your electricity on over the winter, you should: Switch off the breakers at your main panel for the circuits that supply power to your major appliances including your pump and hot water heater.

It's that time of year again – the holiday season is fast approaching!

ESA's Holiday Electrical Safety Tips

Every year thousands of Ontario consumers purchase and install holiday decorations without realizing the potential electrical safety hazards.

ESA has created a holiday video to remind Ontarians of the importance of keeping holiday safety "top of mind" as they begin to prepare for the holiday season.

Here are the highlights:

- Ensure holiday decorations have a recognized certification mark – this proves they have been tested and meet safety standards.
- Always purchase your electrical decorations from reputable retailers to avoid counterfeit products that may not be safety tested.
- Look for overhead powerlines when hanging outdoor lights and decorations.
- Choose the right decoration for the job: some are rated for indoor use only and could be damaged by our harsh winter climate.
- Never use damaged extension cords and remember not to overload outlets to avoid a fire.
- Don't forget to turn off decorations when you leave the house or turn in for the night.
- Store your lights and decorations once the holidays are over. Most aren't designed for year-round use.

ESA also has a downloadable holiday décor shopping list and installation guide for consumers – get yours today at www.esasafe.com

For more information on all of the safety tips please visit www.esasafe.com

Escalator and Elevator Safety

Although escalators and elevators are extremely safe, practising proper riding behaviour will greatly reduce the chance of an accident. Make sure you know the facts.

Shop, but Watch Your Step

While escalators are extremely safe and reliable, riders can fall and be injured if they are not paying attention, using strollers (which are prohibited), playing around, or overloaded with luggage and bags. Based on incidents reported to TSSA, more than 90 per cent of falls and injuries on escalators are rider-related.

A few simple reminders will keep you on your feet:

- Step on and off with care
- Stand in the centre of the step, not right next to the railing, especially when wearing soft-soled footwear, to avoid entrapment
- Hold onto the handrails
- Attend to children and hold their hand
- Keep loose clothing, such as long coats, scarves, and shoelaces clear of steps and sides
- Keep handbags, knapsacks, shopping bags and parcels away from the handrails
- Do not run up or down escalators
- Move away quickly from exit areas
- If you have luggage or a stroller, use an elevator

It is also wise to take a careful and courteous attitude with you on escalators. Pay extra attention to small children and seniors. As a final safety measure, it is helpful to notice where the escalator's emergency stop buttons are located.

Choose the right device - it will help you get to your destination safely.

The Inside Scoop on Elevator Rescue

The safest place to be when an elevator stops or if the doors won't open and you are trapped – is inside! An elevator is designed with every possible safety feature in mind.

Remain calm and know that help is on the way

- If the doors won't open and you're stuck between floors, never force the doors open or try to exit; doing so could expose you to serious danger
- Stay inside and signal for help
- You can ring the alarm, or if an emergency phone or "HELP" button is provided, use it for immediate two-way communication to qualified, responsive staff 24-hours a day or to be directed within a 30-second time frame
- Remain calm and know that help is on the way
- A professional recognized by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) – who is trained to specific rescue standards – will get you safely out of the elevator; such trained specialists know how to safely remove passengers or restart the elevator

Following these safe design and rescue procedures is the surest way to safety.

SO IN THE END, WHERE'S THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE?

›INSIDE THE ELEVATOR!

The Ups and Downs of Elevator Safety

Watch your step

Elevator floors are not always level. Leveling will change depending on the age of the elevator and its varying speeds. If the level is beyond an inch and half, alert the building owner or representative and TSSA.

Use the button

If you want to hold the door open, never stick your hand in the door. The outer doors are there to protect you from two inner doors, not to detect your hand, arm, leg or head.

Respect passenger and weight restrictions

Pay attention to the maximum number of passengers and weight restrictions posted in the elevator car. They exist for a very valid reason: the safety of all within.

Use alarm button for emergencies

Never try to pry the doors open with your hands if trapped inside the elevator. Ring the alarm button or use the emergency phone to call for help.

In the event of a fire, use the stairs and follow building emergency procedures. Though modern elevating equipment is made of fire-resistant materials, elevators should not be used unless under the direct supervision of professional fire fighters.

The Ups and Downs of Elevator Safety

Riding the elevator safely is important for you and your family. Whether you are on the elevator at work, in an apartment building or at the hospital, always practise safe riding behaviour.

Learn more at ElevatorSafetyontario.ca.

TSSA TECHNICAL STANDARDS & SAFETY AUTHORITY

Beat The Silent Killer

In Ontario, over 80% of all carbon monoxide deaths and injuries occur in homes.

TAKE ACTION - COSafety.ca

Cut out this checklist and check off completed items!

Autumn Clean-Up Checklist

Outside the House:

- ☐ Ensure furnace vents are not blocked from the outside by any objects or other obstructions; if so, CO may be drawn back inside your house
- ☐ Store fuel (i.e. gasoline in approved containers, propane tanks) outside and Keep them away from direct sunlight and other heat sources

Inside the House:

- ☐ Have the furnace, fireplace and chimney inspected
- ☐ Make sure warm-air outlets and cold-air returns are clear of carpets, furniture and debris
- ☐ When time to change your clocks, change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Visit Safetyinfo.ca for more information




Helping you stay safe

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is an innovative, not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing public safety. Throughout Ontario, TSSA regulates the safety of: amusement devices; elevators and escalators; ski lifts; fuels; boilers and pressure vessels; operating engineers; and upholstered and stuffed articles. TSSA is there with you each time you get your home furnace inspected, your gas fireplace maintained, and even when you ride an elevator or escalator.

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Corporate Website: tssa.org
Public Safety Website: safetyinfo.ca

PUTTING PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST - ALWAYS.

Autumn 2015