

Happy New Year

## CARBON MONOXIDE

**Carbon monoxide (CO)** is a colourless, odourless and tasteless toxic gas and in an enclosed space, such as a home or garage, even a small amount can cause serious illness or death. Carbon monoxide is produced through the incomplete combustion of propane, gasoline, natural gas, wood or heating oils.

## PREVENTION

To ensure your appliances are operating efficiently, check the following items:

**Yellow Flames** – check the flame colour on all your natural gas appliances regularly. It should be blue – a yellow burner flame can be a sign of carbon monoxide.

**Blocked Vents or Chimneys** – blocked or restricted vents/chimneys will reduce flue performance, increasing the chances of CO or other fumes spilling into the home. Be sure to clean them regularly.

**Car Exhaust** - Despite having properly maintained exhaust systems, it is still possible that CO could get into your vehicle. Also, if you are idling in cold weather with poor ventilation the heating system can draw CO into the vehicle.

**Furnaces** - Remember to check and replace your furnace filter at least every three months. To be sure that your furnace exhaust system is working properly, it should also be inspected routinely by a licensed professional.



1 Blocked vents or chimney\*

2 Fireplace

3 Portable fuel heater

4 Stove

5 Improperly installed cook top vent\*

6 Stored BBQ

7 Car

8 Furnace

9 Water Heater

10 Dryer

\*These are not sources of carbon monoxide but are critical to CO safety.

## IN CASE OF A LEAK

Ensure all people and pets leave the home immediately

Call 911 or your local fire department

If anyone in the house feels ill, get immediate medical attention. Symptoms may include flu like symptoms without the fever, impaired motor functions, chest pain, tiredness or dizziness, and nausea.

Source: <https://www.cga.ca>

## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF NATURAL GAS PRICES

Key points about your natural gas billing:

1. The gas commodity price is determined by the open market and is the usual cause of fluctuations in natural gas utility bills. There is no mark-up applied to the commodity: the price a distribution utility pays for gas is the price the consumer pays for gas.
2. There are numerous factors that effect natural gas price changes. Recent increases are the result of quick growth in demand post-pandemic, and heightened LNG demand globally.
3. A steadily increasing charge on the consumer's bill is carbon taxes. These are rapidly raising the price of natural gas energy services across the economy.
4. In spite of market conditions and carbon taxes, natural gas remains the most affordable heating option in most applications — cheaper than electricity, propane, and heating oil.
5. Gas prices in Canada remain amongst the lowest in the world. Compared to prices in the US, Europe, and Asia, the benchmark price in Canada is as much as 83% lower as of mid year 2022.

### Your natural gas bill consists of three main components

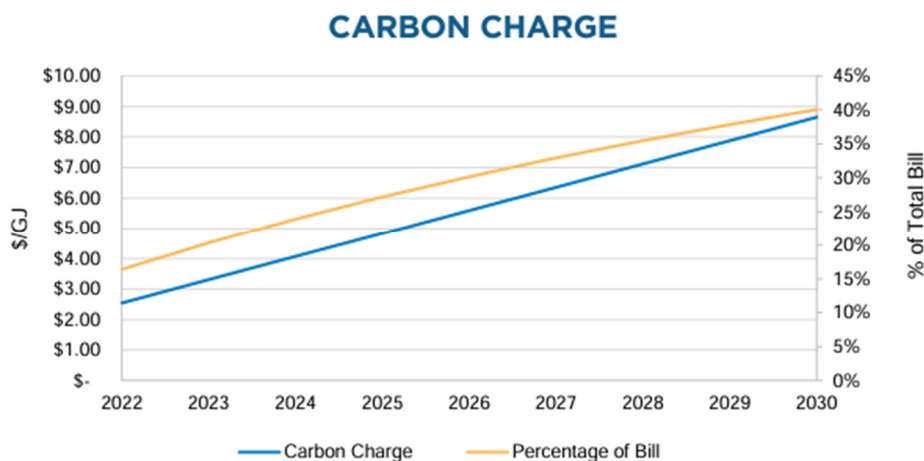
- a gas commodity charge;
- delivery (transmission and distribution) charges; and
- a charge for carbon taxes (Canada's Federal Fuel Charge)

## THE GAS COMMODITY CHARGE

The Gas Commodity Charge is a market-based price that is paid to natural gas producers. Unlike the transmission and distribution charges, the commodity price is non-regulated, and it fluctuates as market conditions change. Natural gas delivery companies pass this commodity charge directly through to customers without mark-up — the price the companies pay is the price the consumer pays for the gas used.

## MARKET-BASED FLUCTUATIONS OF THE COMMODITY PRICE

In contrast to the market-based fluctuations of the commodity price (both up and down over time)— it should be noted that the carbon price charge is only going one way: up. Carbon taxes will rise significantly every year, at least until 2030. Today, the carbon price is set at \$80 per tonne, meaning consumers pay an additional \$4.095 per GJ, about 31% of the total bill, for these taxes. By 2030, when the carbon price reaches \$170 per tonne, the carbon charge on consumer bills will increase to \$8.65 per GJ. Assuming other charges stay the same, the carbon charge alone could make up 40-50% of the total bill costs.



<https://www.cga/cga-by-the-numbers-the-ups-and-downs-of-natural-gas-prices.pdf>