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Natural Gas Safety

Uncapped gas lines

- Inspect your home for uncapped gas lines. Follow the gas line from the meter into your home and make sure the line or any branch lines are connected to an appliance.
- Occasionally, gas appliances are removed without the proper termination of old lines. Any steel line not connected to an appliance should end with a valve and a black steel cap.
- The valve in an unused line must be in the off position. If you do not recognize the proper valve position or have additional questions, call a qualified professional.
- If you detect a gas odor:
 - Immediately vacate the premises, leaving the door open behind you.
 - Do not activate any electric switches.
 - Once off the premises, immediately use a cell phone or off-site land line to call your local natural gas supplier for assistance.

General gas appliance safety

- Only a qualified gasfitter should install, repair or remove natural gas appliances.
- Have all your gas appliances such as your furnace, water heater, stove, fireplace, etc. checked annually by a qualified professional.
- When a pilot light on a gas furnace, water heater or other appliance goes out, follow the manufacturer's instructions to re-light the appliance. If you are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the procedure, call a qualified professional.
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- Keep the area around the furnace and water heater clear of combustibles. Heat from appliances can ignite furniture or trash placed in close proximity. Gas appliances need a fresh air supply that could be restricted by clothing or other articles located within the immediate area.
- Do not use flammable cleaning liquids near gas appliances. Vapours can drift towards the pilot light and cause fires or explosions.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent.

Carbon monoxide

- Fuel-burning appliances need a supply of fresh air to burn properly. Without proper ventilation, heating equipment can produce poisonous carbon monoxide gas.
- Check that all appliances have a source of fresh air and a vent to the outside.

How to check for leaks

- Brush a 50 per cent soap and 50 per cent water solution over all connections in the piping/tubing system, valves, appliance connections and valve train.
- Bubbles will form if there is a leak.
- If a leak is detected, mark the location and contact a certified gasfitter to initiate the necessary repairs.

