

## Keep Obstructions Away from Venting Systems!

Here's a super easy tip that can save lives and your heat from failing. Keep snow build up away from venting systems. Snowdrifts or a large snowfall can block your furnace or hot water heater exhaust pipe and cause it to stop working. Checking the air intake and exhaust vents should be included in winter maintenance. Significant snow accumulation can impede the safe venting of hazardous carbon monoxide gases as well as the operation of the appliances.

If your heating system is a modern, high-efficiency furnace, water heater or boiler that direct vents out of the side or rear of your home you must ensure that the snow and ice do not block off the vent pipe's ability to vent out gases or bring fresh air in. If the snow does build up over the vent pipes, the built-in safety switches in your heating system will automatically turn off the system, leaving you without heat until the system can be re-set. A blockage of the vent pipe could lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide inside of the house. It's important to think of and plan for keeping snow and ice buildup away from the vents.



Your vent pipes are at least 18" above the ground so the snow should not typically cause any trouble, but when we receive a large amount of snow or drifting occurs, it pays to check and be sure the snow does not cover your vent pipes. If your furnace uses a venting system that exits out of the side or rear wall of your home, simply trace the pipes to where they exit your home and then locate them on the outside of your house. If the snow looks as if it could drift or if there is just too much snow closing in on the vent pipes, clear it away and you will remain warm and cozy throughout the storm.

CO detectors shall be installed in every house which has a source capable of producing CO. There should be one on every level that has a source of CO and a detector within 15 feet of every bedroom. Detectors should be checked and maintained, including changing batteries is so required. If your CO alarm sounds, immediately evacuate and call **9-1-1**.