

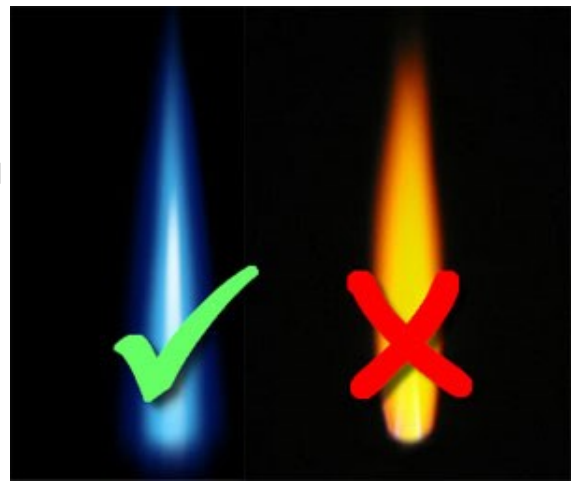
Natural and Propane Gas in Appliances

The color of a flame can be an indicator of whether an appliance is operating appropriately or emitting unsafe amounts of carbon monoxide (CO). Here are some tips and steps to take to prevent Carbon Monoxide poisoning and to make sure your natural and propane gas appliances are operating efficiently.

Flame Color is Key

In the image to the right you can see how the difference in color can be an indicator when CO is present. In most cases, when the flame in your gas appliance is a lazy yellow or orange color, this indicates a potential for carbon monoxide to be present. Some common problems that may effect the flame color are:

- Burner portholes and ignitor is blocked
- Air-gas mixture problem
- Gas pressure to the appliance
- Humid environment



Remember that you cannot see or smell carbon monoxide so ensure that you have a carbon monoxide alarm installed and in working condition.

State Resources:

- <http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/healthy-homes/carbon-monoxide>
- <http://firesafety.vermont.gov/licensing/gas>



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Recommendations:

1. Monitor the color of your flame for potential carbon monoxide. A lazy yellow or orange flame may indicate the presence of carbon monoxide. Shut off the flame and contact a certified professional for the specific type of gas.
2. Ensure all gas shutoffs are labeled and visible to staff. Staff should be trained and know how to shut off the appliance in case of an emergency or suspicion of carbon monoxide.
3. Use appliances according to the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Appliance installation, service, repair and maintenance should be performed by a certified installer for the specific type of gas.
5. Vents should be free of debris and kept clean.
6. Combustible materials should never be stored near gas appliances.
7. Rule of thumb is to always consult a certified professional for the specific gas type on any work to be done and to also utilize the manufacturer to confirm proper operation.

For further information you can reach the Risk Management Team at 802-223-6132 or email Ben Prevost at ben@vsbit.org

