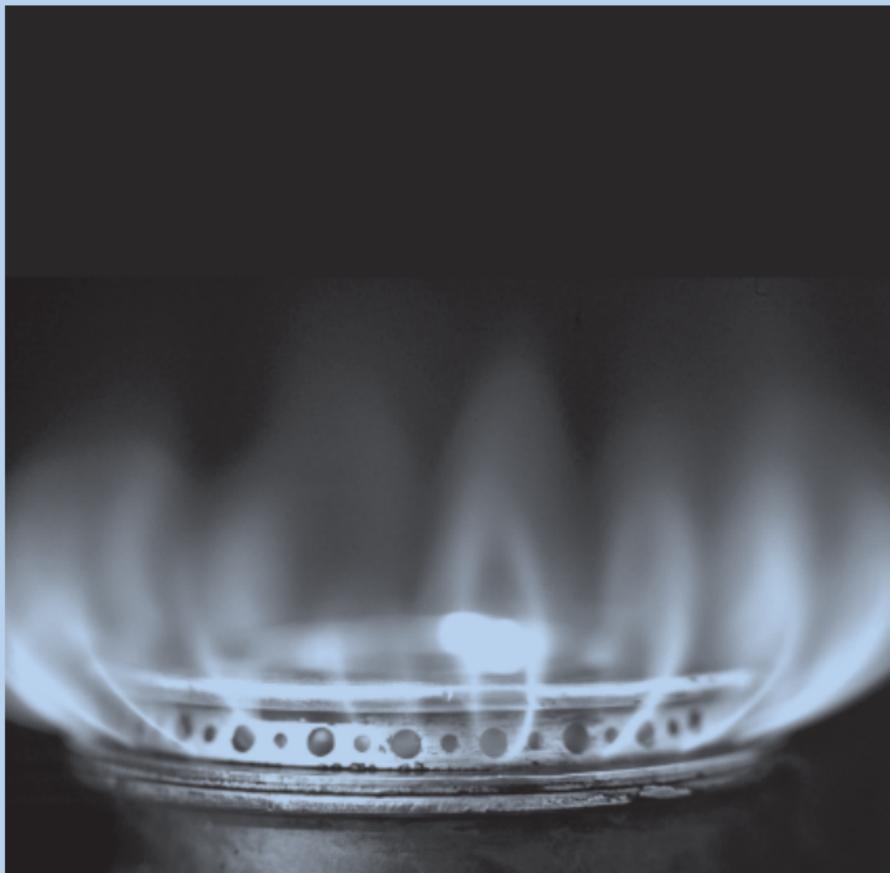


Gas Safety



'Has your
gas appliance
been serviced
recently?'

Gas Appliances - THE PROBLEM

Every year more than 20 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances which have not been properly installed or maintained.

When gas does not burn properly, large amounts of carbon monoxide are produced.

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas which is highly toxic to people and animals and can kill without warning in just a matter of hours. The early symptoms of poisoning include tiredness, drowsiness, headaches, pains in the chest and stomach pains. You are particularly vulnerable when you are asleep.

You are at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas appliance if:

- it was poorly installed;
- it is not working properly;
- it has not been checked or maintained regularly;
- there is not enough fresh air in the room;
- you allow unqualified people to install, service or repair your gas appliance.

There is a particular risk if you sleep in a room where an appliance, which is not of the balanced flue type, is left burning at night. (A balanced flue appliance is one that normally has the flue outlet on an outside wall often protected by a cage, rather than going up to roof level.)

THE ANSWERS

NEVER use a gas appliance if you think it is not working properly

Signs to look out for include:

- Yellow or orange flames.
- Soot or stains around the appliance.
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out.

NEVER cover an appliance or block the air vents;

NEVER block or obstruct any fixed ventilation, grills or air bricks;

NEVER block or cover outside flues;

NEVER fit draught stripping to doors of a room containing a gas appliance;

DO have your appliance checked/ serviced at least every 12 months by a CORGI registered company.

THE LAW

Since April 2009 CORGI has been changed to the Gas Safe Register. The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994

are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive and these regulations place duties on gas consumers, installers, suppliers, and landlords. Remember, for your own protection:

- by law landlords are responsible in certain circumstances for making sure that the appliances in their house are maintained in good order and checked for safety at least every 12 months. They must provide new tenants with a copy of the current Gas Safe Register certificate, and existing tenants with a copy of each new certificate issued annually. If you are a tenant and own the appliance you are responsible for its maintenance and safety checks.
- by law all businesses which carry out work on gas appliances must be registered with Gas Safe (The Council for Registered Gas Installers). Always check your installer is registered by asking to see a current Gas Safe registration certificate or ring Gas Safe on 0800 408 5508.
- by law only a competent person, i.e. someone with the right knowledge and technical experience - can carry out work on gas appliances. Do-it-yourself work on gas appliances could be dangerous and illegal.
- by law you must not use any gas appliance you know or suspects is not safe. Through the Gas Safe Register, the

Health and Safety Executive has asked all registered installers to disconnect any gas appliance which is so dangerous as to be a threat to life if it is used. If your installer asks your permission to disconnect such an appliance it will be in the interest of your own safety, and that of others, to agree. Before you use this appliance again, have it repaired by a Gas Safe registered company.

- by law from 1 January 1996 gas appliances which do not have a balanced flue cannot be installed in a bedroom, unless they have a device which automatically turns the gas supply off before a dangerous level of toxic fumes builds up.



Further Information

If you need further detailed advice ring the Health and Safety Executive, Gas Safety Advice line on **0800 300 363**, or contact the local Health and Safety Executive office at International House, Dover Place, Ashford Telephone **(01233) 624658**. Otherwise, more general advice is available from:

**Housing Services Unit
Swale Borough Council
Swale House, East Street
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT
Telephone: 01795 417467
Website: www.swale.gov.uk**

This leaflet contains notes which are only a general guide to the law. The exact legal requirements are contained in the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994 (as amended). Source: Health and Safety Executive.

Copies of this document are available on the council website **www.swale.gov.uk**. If you would like further information, more copies or alternative versions (i.e. large print, audio, different language) we will do our best to accommodate your request please contact:

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