



Carbon Monoxide



19015

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas which has no taste, colour or smell. It can make you feel seriously ill and can kill quickly without warning.

What are the signs of a carbon monoxide leak?

Carbon monoxide can be produced when poorly maintained, incorrectly fitted or badly repaired appliances do not burn gas completely. Look out for the following signs that could indicate that a gas appliance is not working correctly, and CO may be present in the house:

- Floppy yellow or orange flame on your gas hob, rather than a crisp blue flame
- Dark, sooty staining on or around gas appliances
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out
- Increased condensation inside windows

What are the physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?



If you're suffering from any of the symptoms and feel better when you leave the house, it could be CO poisoning. If you're concerned you or someone in your household may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning, make sure you do the following:

- Get fresh air immediately
- Open all doors and windows, switch off gas appliances and leave the house
- Contact your GP, who can check and advise if you need treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning
- If you're concerned there is immediate danger, call the gas emergency helpline on 0800 111 999 (mainland GB), 0800 002 001 (Northern Ireland) or look up the number for your UK region at <http://bit.ly/gasemergency>.

How to stay gas safe

- Ensure your gas appliances are checked annually by a qualified Gas Safe registered engineer
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm marked EN 50291 which carries the British Standard Kitemark

Now that you know the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, why not pass it on and share this important information with your family, friends and neighbours, to help them all stay Gas Safe.



Building a Sustainable Future





Top 10 Tips to stay safe

Read our top 10 tips to keep you safe and warm in your home.



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1. Only use a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix and service your appliances. You can find and check an engineer at GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500.
2. Check both sides of your engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. Make sure they are qualified for the work being carried out. You can find this information on the back of the card.
3. Have all your gas appliances regularly serviced and safety checked every year. If you rent your home ask for a copy of the landlord's current Gas Safety Record.
4. Know the six signs of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness. Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk of CO poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions.
5. Check gas appliances for warning signs that they are not working properly e.g. lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue flames, black marks or stains on or around the appliance and too much condensation in the room.
6. Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm. This will alert you if there is carbon monoxide in your home.
7. Keep vents and chimneys clear. Make sure you don't block any vents, as they are vital to ensure gas appliances burn properly, and chimneys need to be cleaned and checked regularly.
8. Use gas appliances only for their intended purpose. Don't be tempted to use them for something they weren't meant for (e.g using a gas cooker to heat a room).
9. Know the emergency procedure, if you smell gas or suspect immediate danger, make sure you contact the relevant number for your UK region.
10. Spread the word. Share vital gas safety information with friends, family and neighbours to make sure your community stays safe.

SAFETY TIPS



Check your gas appliances every year.



Check your gas engineer is gas registered.



Check your engineer's gas safe ID card.

