

Prevent a fatal mistake

Avoiding
carbon
monoxide
poisoning



Almost
50^{0%}

of people don't know
what the warning signs
of carbon monoxide
poisoning are

Almost
100^{0%}

would not consider
flu-like symptoms to
be anything else

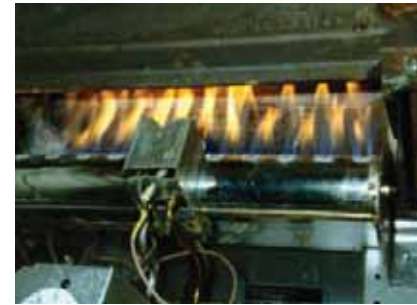


Carbon monoxide is the silent killer

Too many people die each year in the UK from gas-related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and many become chronically ill.

With symptoms including headaches and drowsiness, it's often confused with flu.

Faulty appliances are often to blame, and put the young and elderly at most risk. But a simple, annual gas safety check with a CORGI Registered Installer could prevent the needless deaths of your kids, parents, and even yourself.



A yellow/orange flame is evidence of possible carbon monoxide presence



A healthy flame should be crisp, vibrant and blue

About CORGI

CORGI stands for the 'Council for Registered Gas Installers'. It is the body charged by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to maintain a register of competent gas installers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

It is a legal requirement for any business carrying out gas related work in relevant premises to be registered with CORGI.

When gas is used correctly and with respect, it is a safe and economical fuel.

Steps to gas safety

To make sure you and your family remain safe from the possible dangers of gas, follow these simple steps to gas safety:

- Ensure appliances are checked for safety annually by a CORGI Registered Installer
- Be aware of the danger signs
- Never be tempted to DIY with gas

Carbon monoxide: The facts

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a chemical compound of carbon and oxygen. It is a colourless, odourless gas, and is poisonous to all warm-blooded animals.

CO is formed whenever carbon or substances containing carbon, such as gas, coal, wood or oil, are burned with an insufficient air supply. This is called incomplete combustion. When CO is inhaled, it prevents absorption of oxygen into the body and can result in oxygen starvation. This can have disastrous results, including death, depending on the concentration of CO in the body.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to those of viral infections and include drowsiness, weakness, headaches, nausea and pains in the chest.

Possible causes of incomplete combustion include:

- Problems within the appliance itself, such as poor maintenance/servicing
- Incorrect installation/commissioning of the appliance
- Lack of ventilation around the appliance

All of these causes can be indicated by observation of the flame. A yellow/orange variable flame is evidence of possible carbon monoxide presence. A 'healthy' flame should be crisp, vibrant and blue.

Other indications of incomplete combustion are sooting/staining around the appliance and condensation in the room where the appliance is installed.

Carbon monoxide
is absorbed
by the blood

240 times
more easily
than oxygen



Carbon monoxide: The dangers

Our blood has a component called haemoglobin, which normally absorbs oxygen in our lungs and carries it to the rest of the body.

But haemoglobin absorbs CO 240 times more easily than it does oxygen. So when we inhale CO from the air, this gas, rather than the oxygen, attaches itself to the haemoglobin and starves the body of oxygen. The smaller the person, the more quickly the body can become overcome by the effects of CO.

The symptoms of CO poisoning can easily be confused with flu.

Severe headaches, nausea, dizziness, general lethargy... And to confuse matters further, severe CO poisoning makes the body turn a cherry-red colour so, in spite of asphyxiation, cyanosis (turning blue) does not occur. A victim's skin will be pink or pale with bright red lips.

The early symptoms of CO poisoning are tiredness, drowsiness, headache and pains in the chest or stomach. Any of these symptoms require medical attention, with serious cases of CO poisoning needing urgent treatment.

CO poisoning can affect the victim's mental ability before they are even aware that there is a problem. Any exertion increasing the victim's oxygen demand only exacerbates the problem, rapidly leading to collapse and eventually death.

It is vital that the victim is removed immediately from the contaminated area, placed into the open air, and given pure oxygen if available. Victims should be kept at rest, avoiding exertion. Medical advice should be sought as soon as possible.

If anyone you know has any of the symptoms mentioned above when using a gas appliance, stop using the appliance until it has been checked by a CORGI Registered Installer. Consult a doctor and mention the possibility of CO poisoning.

Only
32^{0%}

of elderly people
have their
gas appliances
checked regularly
by a professional



1
in
10

people know someone
who has suffered from
carbon monoxide poisoning

Staying safe

Most gas appliances, when properly installed and serviced, and that have sufficient ventilation, are very efficient and safe.

To avoid the production of CO, ensure adequate ventilation into the room where the appliance is located.

There are a number of CO detectors available on the market.

Remember that these must never be used instead of an annual gas safety check, but only as a supplement to proper installation and maintenance of your appliances, and an awareness of living safely with gas.

If you are considering a CO detector, make sure it meets current British safety standards and always choose an audible one so that you could be alerted even if you are asleep. **ALWAYS** read the instructions carefully before installing it.



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DOMESTIC			NON DOMESTIC		
	NG	LPG		NG	LPG
Pipework	✓	✓	Pipework	✓	✓
Cookers	✓	✓	Pipework Commission	✓	✓
Gas Fires	✓	✓	Catering	✓	✓
Water Heaters	✓	✓	Laundry	✓	✓
Central Heating	✓	✓	Air Heating	✓	✓
Warm Air	✓	✓	Water/Central Htg	✓	✓
Tumble Dryers	✓	✓	Meters	✓	✓
Leisure Equipment	✓	✓	Plant & Equipment	✓	✓
Meters	✓	✓	OTHER	NG	LPG
Boats/Appliances	✓	✓	Mobile Cabinet Htrs	Oct 2005	
Caravans/Appliances	✓	✓	ESP		
Vessel/Liquid Pipwk	✓	✓			
BUILDING REGS SELF CERT			HEALTH AND SAFETY SCHEME		
11 New Single Circuit	✓	✓	Site Safety Tested	✓	✓
C2 Extension	✓	✓	JOSH Working Safely	✓	✓
Gas Appliances	✓	✓			

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Important notes about gas appliance installations and replacements

CORGI Registered Installers are required, under CORGI's own registration rules, to obtain competency certificates in areas of gas work they carry out. They are also required to update this proof of competence regularly. Competency is not just technical ability and understanding, but a knowledge of safe working practices.

From 1st April 2005...

When you use a CORGI Registered Installer to install an appliance, you will receive a safety certificate direct from CORGI. Keep this safe. The certificate will prove that the appliance has been

installed by a competent person and will be a necessary inclusion in the Home Information Pack, which the Government is introducing from 2007.

If you are in England or Wales, you will be responsible for notifying local building control when you install or replace a gas appliance.

This could cost around £300 and require an inspection, unless you use a CORGI Registered Installer who can self certify and notify building control direct at no extra charge.

For more information, visit www.corgi-group.com

How to find a local CORGI Registered Installer

Prevent a fatal mistake with an annual gas safety check by a CORGI Registered Installer. To find your nearest one:

- Call CORGI on 0870 401 2300
- Visit www.corgi-group.com
- Look in your local Yellow Pages or Thomson Directory



1 Elmwood, Chineham Park
Crockford Lane, Basingstoke
Hants. RG24 8WG

Tel: 0870 401 2200

Fax: 0870 401 2600

Email: enquiries@corgi-group.com

www.corgi-group.com



Bootle Information Centre
Health and Safety Executive
Magdalen House,
Trinity Road
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 3QZ

www.hse.gov.uk