

CARBON MONOXIDE

carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that can be formed if one of your gas heating or cooking appliances isn't working or burning properly. This usually happens if it has not been installed properly or is badly repaired or poorly maintained.

You can't see, taste, smell or touch carbon Monoxide – your senses don't know it's in the room with you.

It's not just appliances in your home that can produce CO. It can form whenever carbon-based fuels like oil, coal or wood are not burning as they should.

other places to watch out for CO risks include:

- Holiday lets
- Garages and sheds
- camping sites and caravans
- Boats
- Places using portable heaters or charcoal BBQs (when inside)



Low levels of CO in the home can cause headaches, nausea and dizziness...



HEADACHES



NAUSEA



DIZZINESS



BREATHLESSNESS



COLLAPSE



LOSS OF
CONSCIOUSNESS

Higher levels can build up and lead to more serious symptoms including collapsing and even death



Have your gas boiler which provides your hot water and heating to your radiators, and your gas appliances (cooker, fire) serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer once a year.

Sweep any chimney you use to burn fuel, at least once a year.

How to protect yourself and your family

Brown marks around an appliance?

An orange flame on a gas appliance instead of a blue one?

Boiler is not working properly?

Get them checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer.



Fit at least one CO detector in your home that you can hear if it goes off. They cost about £10-20 and are available from DIY stores and supermarkets. Make sure the detector has EN50291 code on it and a British Standards Kite mark. Test it regularly, and if it is more than 7 years old then replace it.

If the cost is a problem, contact the Safe and well team at your local Fire and Rescue Service and they may be able to help.

If you rent, your landlord's responsibilities include:

- do a Gas Safety check once a year -
- it's the law and they have to use a Gas Safe registered engineer
- fit and maintain CO detectors in most of their properties with gas appliances.

To find out more, please visit:

gasafecharity.org.uk

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