

# tec the Environment Centre (tec)

## Gas and Carbon Monoxide Safety Advice

### Gas leak

Gas leak can happen if gas appliances have been poorly fitted or serviced and maintained or are faulty. As gas is highly flammable, if there is a leak, it can lead to fire or explosion. To make gas leaks easily detectable, gas suppliers add an odour to it (some compare it to the smell of rotten eggs).

#### What to do if you smell gas:

- ✓ Ventilate your home by opening doors and windows
- ✓ Don't operate any appliances
- ✓ Don't use your mobile phone
- ✓ Don't turn any electrical switches on or off
- ✓ Don't use naked flames
- ✓ If possible, turn off your gas isolation valve (this should be next to the gas meter). Don't attempt this if gas smell and meter are in the cellar
- ✓ If you feel unwell seek medical advice from your GP or call **999** in an emergency

**Call the National Gas Emergency number  
0800 111 999**

### Carbon Monoxide leak

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas that you cannot see, smell or taste and it can cause permanent health damage or even death. It can be produced when fuels like gas (natural/LPG), oil, wood and coal are burnt incorrectly. Badly fitted, serviced or faulty appliances or blocked flues, chimneys or vents can produce it.

#### What to do if you suspect CO leak:

- ✓ Stop using all appliances and switch them off
- ✓ Get fresh air by opening doors and windows and evacuate the property. Don't return until the property has been aired out and appliances repaired by a professional
- ✓ Seek medical advice from your GP or call **999** in an emergency

#### Call:

- For gas appliances: National Gas Emergency number **0800 111 999** (24h/day) or Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Gas Safety Advice Line\* **0800 300 363**
- For oil and biofuel appliances: OFTEC **01473626298**\*\* (option 1)
- For solid fuel and biomass appliances: HETAS **01684278170**<sup>+</sup>

#### Common CO poisoning symptoms:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Breathlessness
- Collapse
- Loss of consciousness

\*Mon-Thu; 9am-5.30pm, Fri; 9am-5pm, \*\*Mon-Fri; 9am-5pm, +Mon-Thu; 9am-5pm, Fri; 9am-4.30pm

**Call 0800 804 8601 for free, independent and local advice**

## How to prevent and identify a Gas leak?

- Install and annually service your gas appliances by a **Gas Safe registered** (ex CORGI) engineer.
- Get an audible gas detector
- Use gas appliances only for their intended purpose (e.g. don't use a gas barbecue inside the house or your cooker to heat your home)

### If you rent your home:

-Your landlord is responsible to annually service your gas (natural & LPG) boiler using a Gas Safe registered engineer.

-Gas appliances provided by your landlord should also be checked annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer

### Schemes available to help:

-**Priority Services Register scheme:** Check if you are eligible with your energy supplier and distributor as some of them can offer free annual gas safety checks.

## How to prevent and identify a CO leak?

- Install and annually service your fuel-burning appliances by a reputable company:
  - For gas appliances always use a **Gas Safe registered** engineer
  - For oil appliances, it is recommended to use an **OFTEC** accredited engineer
  - For solid fuel appliances it is recommended to use a **HETAS** accredited engineer
- Get an audible Carbon Monoxide alarm
- Ensure your flues, chimneys and vents are not blocked

### If you rent your home:

-Your landlord is responsible to fit CO alarms in rooms that contain **solid fuel appliances** (for gas appliances there is no requirement to install one but it is still advisable)

- Flues, chimneys and vents: Check with your landlord who is responsible for keeping the flues, chimney and vents clean

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