

## Carbon Monoxide Safety



**SGN**  
Your gas. Our network.

It's our top priority to keep everyone safe and warm in their homes all year round – making sure you're aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide is one of the ways we can do that.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels (including gas, oil, wood, petrol and coal). It can't be seen, heard, smelt, or tasted – which is why it's known as the 'Silent Killer'. It's really important to keep you and your loved ones safe from CO poisoning all year round – you can do this by following our six steps to CO safety:

### 1. Check the flame

The flame on your gas hob should be crisp and blue, not lazy and orange. You should also check for black marks on or around the appliance, the pilot light frequently blowing out or too much condensation – these can be signs CO is present.

### 2. Check ventilation

Is the flue from the appliance or your chimney blocked? Is there enough ventilation to allow your gas appliances to burn correctly – if they don't have a sufficient air supply, they could produce carbon monoxide.

### 3. Check appliances

Have all your gas appliances checked every year. Always use a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix and check your appliances safely.

### 4. Get yourself a CO alarm

You can buy an audible carbon monoxide detector in most DIY stores, supermarkets and online. You should regularly test your CO alarm to make sure it's working properly and check the expiry date. Should the batteries or alarm itself reach the end of their useable life please replace them as soon as possible to help keep you and your household safe.

### 5. Check for symptoms

Headaches, nausea, dizziness, breathlessness, collapsing and loss of consciousness are all symptoms of CO poisoning. If these symptoms occur when you're at home but disappear when you are away from home, go straight to hospital and get checked for possible CO poisoning.

### 6. Check your rights and responsibilities

If you are a tenant, by law, your landlord must check your appliances every year. Ask for a copy of the annual gas safety record and check if your landlord has fitted an audible CO alarm. If you are a landlord, it's your responsibility to make sure your

tenants are safe. You must make sure that gas pipework, flues and appliances are in good condition and checked every year by a Gas Safe registered engineer.



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If you're worried about carbon monoxide in your property, make sure you follow these steps:

- Open all doors and windows
- Move everyone into the fresh air
- Call the Gas Emergency Service on 0800 111 999 or or via textphone (minicom) on 0800 371 787

We also have a variety of free educational materials for kids available to complete online or download. George and his friends will teach your young ones all about gas and carbon monoxide safety – there are even some fun games to play! You'll find these materials on our website at: <https://sgn.co.uk/help-and-advice/keeping-gas-safe/activities-kids>