

What should I do if I think my appliance is spilling carbon monoxide?

Switch off the appliance and do not reuse until remedial action has been taken. Open all doors and windows to ventilate the room. Contact a Gas Safe registered installer to make repairs.

Carbon monoxide alarms are a useful precaution but must NOT be regarded as a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of gas equipment by a Gas Safe registered installer.

If you buy a carbon monoxide alarm make sure it meets current safety standards (BS7860 or BS EN 50291) and carries the BSI Kitemark.



CARBON MONOXIDE

THE SILENT KILLER

Promoted in association with:



What is carbon monoxide? Why is it a problem?

For further information go to
www.carbonmonoxidekills.com

You can also call our freephone helpline:

0800 359 5525



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Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, poisonous gas. It is produced when carbon-based fuels fail to burn properly. You can't see it, taste it, or smell it but it can kill without warning in just a few hours.

Every year people die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues that have been improperly installed, maintained or poorly ventilated. By understanding the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning and taking sensible precautions, lives can be saved.

What preventative measures can I take against carbon monoxide exposure?

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) strongly advises that gas appliances and/or flues are installed and serviced regularly by a Gas Safe registered installer.

If you live in tenanted accommodation, your landlord has a legal duty to carry out an annual gas safety check and maintain gas appliances. They must provide you with a copy of the completed gas safety check certificate.

Make sure there is enough fresh air in the room containing your gas appliance.

If you have a chimney/flue, ensure it is not blocked up and that vents are not covered.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can mimic many common ailments. Symptoms include:

- Tiredness
- Drowsiness
- Headaches
- Giddiness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Pains in the chest
- Breathlessness
- Stomach pains
- Erratic behaviour
- Visual problems

You are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if:

- Your appliance is poorly installed
- Your appliance has not been checked/maintained regularly
- Your appliance is not working properly.

This can be indicated by:

- Yellow or orange rather than blue flames;
- Soot or yellow/brown staining around or on appliances;
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out
- Increased condensation inside windows

