

Carbon Monoxide and Gas Safety

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels (including gas, oil, wood, petrol and coal).

Because you can't see it, taste it or smell it, it is highly dangerous and in certain conditions can kill quickly and without warning.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning



Headaches



Nausea



Dizziness



Breathlessness



Collapse



Loss of consciousness

The signs of CO

- Flames on most heating appliances should be crisp and blue. Yellow or orange flames should be checked by a professional
- Look for staining, sooting or discolouration on appliances
- Look for increased condensation
- The pilot light blowing out frequently

If you're concerned there is CO present in your home, or notice symptoms of CO poisoning, contact the National Gas Emergency Service on **0800 111 999** immediately.

How to stay safe from the dangers of CO

- Get coal, oil and natural gas appliances checked annually by a qualified professional
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm and always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Regularly test your carbon monoxide alarm in line with the manufacturer's instructions and replace the batteries/alarm as and when required
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation for appliances and don't block air vents
- Turn off the appliance and seek immediate assistance if you suspect CO or your CO alarm sounds
- Don't ever bring a BBQ or portable heater into an enclosed space without proper ventilation

Gas Emergency

Cadent, Northern Gas Networks, SGN and Wales and West Utilities provide the National Gas Emergency response. If you report a gas escape or a CO concern their engineers provide a 24 hour service and attend to make the situation safe.

Follow these six steps if you smell gas:

✓ Do open windows and doors to help ventilate the gas

✓ Do turn off the gas supply at the meter and make sure any gas appliances are turned off

✓ Do call the National Gas Emergency Number on 0800 111 999. Lines are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

✗ Don't smoke or use any naked flames

✗ Don't touch any electrical switches. Turning a switch on or off could ignite a gas leak

✗ Don't enter a cellar if you smell gas, even if your gas meter is located in the cellar



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