



## Gas Safety

### If you smell gas:

- Call National Grid's 24hr number on 0800 111 999 immediately.
- Open all doors and windows to ventilate your property
- Don't use any electrical equipment such as light switches or mobile phones
- Don't use any naked flames

### How do I spot a problem with my gas appliance?

#### If you spot any of these things:

- The outside case is discoloured
- The decoration around your appliance is stained with soot marks or discoloured
- The pilot light goes out a lot and your appliance burns with a yellow or orange flame
- There's lots of condensation and a strange smell when your appliance is on
- The flue is damaged or broken

### Take these steps straight away:

- Switch off your gas appliance and don't use it until the issue is resolved.
- Shut off your gas supply at the meter control valve (if you know where it is). If gas keeps escaping, call the National Grid on their Gas Emergency Freephone Number 0800 111 999 or by textphone/minicom on 0800 371 787. They are open 24 hours a day, every day, including Bank Holidays.

### What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a potentially dangerous gas that is also odourless and colourless – making it difficult to detect. We strongly recommend using a carbon monoxide detector in your home.

In addition, you should be aware of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- A headache
- Feeling sick and dizzy
- Feeling tired and confused

- Being sick and having stomach pain
- Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing

If you experience these symptoms or suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home leave as soon as possible and seek medical attention. After doing this, contact the Gas emergency services line on 0800 111 999.

### Why is a carbon monoxide alarm important?

A carbon monoxide alarm will make a sound when it detects carbon monoxide, just like your smoke alarm does when it detects a fire. They are easily obtained from many supermarkets and DIY shops and are relatively inexpensive.

We recommend a detector which makes a sound rather than an alarm which changes colour when carbon monoxide is detected- because it will wake you up if you are asleep.

Always check that yours is officially approved to EN 50291 standards before you buy (this replaced the British Standard BS7860 in April 2006). It must also have a British or European approval mark on it, like a Kitemark. You should always read your alarm's instructions too so you fit, check and service it the right way.

### The benefits of gas safety checks

Gas appliances should be safety checked and serviced at least once every year, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Having a gas safety check reduces the risk of gas leaks and the danger of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Any work should be carried out by Gas Safe Register™ engineers who must hold a valid certificate of competence, certified by The National Accredited Certification Scheme for Individual Gas Fitting Operatives (ACS).

You can find a list of Gas Safe Register™ engineers in your area on the Gas Safe Register website.

### What to do if an appliance fails a gas safety check

If a gas appliance is 'condemned' as a result of a gas safety check, please consult the Gas Safe Register website for advice.