

## Gas Safety

With so many various appliances in our homes working from gas, including our boilers, cookers, and fires, it is important that our appliances are checked and serviced on a regular basis.

The Gas Safe Register provides some tips on staying gas safe in your own home:

1. Use a gas safe registered engineer to fit, fix and service your gas appliances.
2. Ask your engineer for his/hers 'Gas Safe Register' ID card. Check the back to ensure that they are qualified to carry out specific types of gas work required.
3. Have all of your gas appliances safety checked every year.
4. Find a Gas Safe engineer in your area.
5. REMEMBER – unsafe appliances can put you at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions. Be aware of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, including; headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness.
6. Lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks or stains on or around appliances, may be a warning sign that they are not working properly.
7. Carbon monoxide can leak from appliances and kill. Carbon monoxide detectors, like a smoke alarm can help to save lives. Place one near your gas appliance.
8. Only use gas appliances for intended purpose.
9. Make sure that there is enough ventilation in a room for appliances to burn correctly
10. Anybody working with gas has to be 'Gas Safe registered' by law. You can report someone who is not registered.

If you are concerned that you may have been affected by Carbon Monoxide poisoning, it is important you seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Remember that Carbon monoxide can be released by other fuel burning appliances and not just those reliant on gas, including wood burners, oil fuelled boilers, gas hobs and ovens, diesel run generators etc. Carbon monoxide is released where the appliances haven't been able to burn their fuel 'completely' which may in part be due to insufficient ventilation, inaccurate fitting of the appliance or faulty appliance; thus emphasising the need for maintenance programmes to be carried out by appropriately qualified tradespersons on a regular basis.

For more information you can call Gas Safe Register: 0800 408 5500.

OR visit the Gas Safe Register website: <http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/default.aspx>

In instances where it is considered an Emergency, please call: 0800 111 999 (England, Scotland and Wales).