

The silent killer is not selective on who it affects, although the elderly and the young are often the first victims to fall foul of the poisonous gas. It is caused by fuel not burning correctly. This is normally because of an inadequate air supply to the appliance, or a lack of draft in the chimney. If the chimney is blocked or restricted, gasses produced by burning fuel are not getting safely away. Gas engineers will insist on fitting a vent in the room where they install an appliance. Most solid fuel appliances require the same air supply. In older properties, open fires etc would normally draw this air under doors and through draughty windows, but in modern homes this air movement is minimised, which affects the performance of the humble fireplace, cooker or stove.

The renaissance of solid fuel & multi fuel stoves especially, are bringing about a resurgence in problems for professional chimney technicians in the Province. The simple “stick a stove into an existing flue” attitude to fitting these solid fuel appliances is nothing short of a recipe for disaster.

Opening up dormant chimneys, replacing fireplaces, or fitting new appliances to existing chimneys all now fall under the remit of Northern Ireland Building Control. Your local registered chimney technician can help to ensure your fireplace or stove complies with current building regulations. At present there is no formal qualification for installers of solid fuel appliances in the province, so don't count on fireplace shops, and the sub contractors they use, to get it right, as this is not always the case. The Northern Ireland Association of Chimney Sweeps is working to address issue.

Carbon Monoxide can cause tiredness, short term memory loss, muscle fatigue, headache, dizziness, flu like symptoms, chest pain and nausea. Worst case scenario, you can fall asleep, slip into a coma and suffer brain damage and ultimately an untimely death. If you often feel better when you leave the home for a while, then it is worth having the heating system and flue checked by a REGISTERED COMPETANT PERSON. Just because the man down the street sweeps his own chimney, using DIY equipment does not mean he is a chimney expert, and if he has a set of screwdrivers and an adjustable spanner does not mean he is a competent heating engineer.

CHECK THEIR CREDENTIALS BEFORE INVITING THEM INTO YOUR HOME AND REMEMBER TO ASK FOR ID WHEN THEY ARRIVE.

If your chimney has not been used for a long period of time, during the Summer for instance, have the chimney swept before you begin to use it again. Please try to book an appointment in advance of busy periods like Autumn. If ventilation grills are in the room, they are there for a reason. Don't block them up or let anyone do it for you. Your heating system needs to breathe just like you do. If the fireplace is smoking into the room, the fire is hard to light or the glass of the stove is always going black, have it checked. Remember a chimney can block up in a matter of hours. During heavy rain, soot can be washed down to a bend in a chimney and lodge, or bird nesting material in the flue. These cause restrictions or blockages in chimneys in a shockingly short space of time.

A carbon monoxide detector should be considered a wise investment if you use oil, gas or solid fuel to heat your home. Expect to pay about £30-£35 for a good quality Honeywell alarm. They are simple to install, much like a smoke alarm. All the members in the Northern Ireland Association of Chimney Sweeps carry them in their vans. Included in the cost, our members will normally fit them for you on the day if you ask. If you can't afford one, leave this leaflet in a place where your family might read it as they might buy one for you.

Your heating appliance will be perfectly safe if it is looked after and maintained properly by people who are trained to know what they are doing. It is neglect that causes the problems.

GAS SAFE, OFTEC and NIACS Chimney Technicians are here for your safety.

CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS!



A Registered
Chimney Sweep checks the flue and
appliance are safe.
Call us at least annually



**And it's not just oil & gas appliances.
Solid fuel has had it's fair share of
victims over the years too.
You don't need to be the next.**



THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSOCIATION OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS

*The only recognised body of
chimney professionals in
the province.*

Trading As	Proprietor	Town / City	Landline	Mobile	Services
Clean Sweep	PRESIDENT Larry Ferris	Newtownabbey	028 90852107	07850 969457	All
County Down Stoves & Flues	CHAIRMAN David Campbell	Dundrum	SHOWROOM 028 43751555	FAX Number 028 43751565	B, D, E, H, I, J
Antrim Sweep & Boiler Services	Michael Gibbons	Antrim	028 94460246	07710 127250	A, C, E, F, K
Bloomfield Sweep	Jim Rainey	Bangor	028 91453489		A
City and Country Sweep	Alan Morrow	Belfast	028 90648946	07785 500064	A,C,D,F,J, L
Maiden City Sweep	Steve Lafford	Kiltennan, Derry	028 71347447		All but B
Tower Sweep	Geoff Wilson	Ballymena	028 25659815	07802 934139	A, C, E, J, K
Town and Country Sweep	Bryan Lindsay	Dromore	028 926993241	07787609261	A, C, F, L, J
Mr Sooty's Chimney Cleaning Service	Adrian Mc Mullan	Banbridge	028 40662066	07729 117702	A, C, F
Riada Sweep	Colin Mc Comb	Ballymoney	028 27665148	07713 758639	A, C, J,
Swift Cleaning	Fergus Leckie	Whitehead	028 93353461	07972712882	A
New City Sweep		Lisburn	028 92612052	0797 0076099	A, C
North Down Neat Sweep	Wayne Brotherston	Bangor	028 91274258	07786 425434	A,C,E,F,J, K
DGS Cleaning Services	Derek Somerville	Brookeborough	028 89531668	0771 8887791	A, C, D, E, F, J, L
The Dirty Job Company	Roy Smith	Enniskillen	028 66328677	0781 7135905	All but K
Soots You	Robert Wilson	Belfast	028 90913252	0777 1776564	All
City Sweep	Bobby Morton	Belfast	028 90434864	07889 488876	A, C, E,
Q Sweep	Danny Quinn	Belfast	028 90228549	07731199307	All but K
County Down Sweeps	Patrick Smyth	Newcastle	028 43725379	07813938331	A, C, E, F
Black Magic Sweep	Paul O'Neill	Belfast	028 90391121	0780 1690452	All
East side sweep	D Mallen	Belfast	028 90455713	07955 616136	A,C,L

THINKING OF A STOVE, ASK YOUR SWEEP FOR ADVICE

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR STOVE INSTALLATION ASK FOR A STOVE/CHECK INSPECTION

With this list of

services.

**You don't need
anyone else
but the NIACS !**

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| A | Chimney Sweeping. | G | Fireplace Installations |
| B | Reaming and Descaling services. | H | Multi Fuel/Wood Stoves supplied/fitted |
| C | Chimney pots/cowls/caps/cages. | I | CCTV inspections. |
| D | Flue lining services. | J | Coreball/Smoke tests. |
| E | Solid Fuel appliance service and repair | K | OFTEC Oil Heating Technician |
| F | Replacement frebacks | L | Chimney Stack Repointing |

Please check the list above to see if your chosen sweep offers the service you need before calling.

WWW.NIACS.CO.UK ... A Professional Service at its Best