

ARE YOU AT RISK OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Each year in the UK, there are around **40 deaths** from accidental CO poisoning and in excess of 200 non-fatal cases that require hospitalisation.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon Monoxide is a highly poisonous gas that can't be seen and has no smell, odour or taste.

It can be released by any appliance or heating system that burns oil, gas or solid fuel, including wood, if they are not properly installed, used or maintained or where adequate ventilation has not been provided.

WATCH OUT 
CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS

KNOW THE **SYMPTOMS** OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

TIREDNESS

NAUSEA

DROWSINESS

CHEST PAIN

HEADACHE

STOMACH PAIN

You are particularly at risk when you are asleep because you cannot recognise the early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. These symptoms can mimic many common ailments and may easily be confused with flu or simple tiredness.

You are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if:

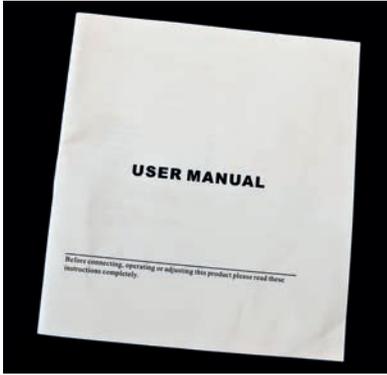
- your appliance has not been checked by Building Control;
- your appliance is not working properly;
- your appliance has not been checked for safety or maintained regularly by a competent person;
- you do not have a functioning CO Alarm

**HOW TO
STAY
SAFE**

1. Follow your instruction manual
2. Have your appliance installed safely with Building Control approval
3. Use your appliance correctly
4. Have your appliance properly maintained
5. Fit a Carbon Monoxide alarm



CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS



Instruction Manual

Your instruction manual is an important document that you should keep for future reference. It must be followed to ensure your appliance is installed, used and maintained safely.



Installation

Who should install my appliance?

Your appliance should be installed by a competent person. Anyone you ask to undertake work on a gas-fired or solid fuel appliance should be a specialist in that particular field. Traders must only undertake work for which they are qualified and competent.



It is important to check if the chimney has been capped, these caps must be removed to allow the safe removal of fumes and smoke. A competent installer should be able to recognise and advise on any modifications needed to your chimney and flue during installation.

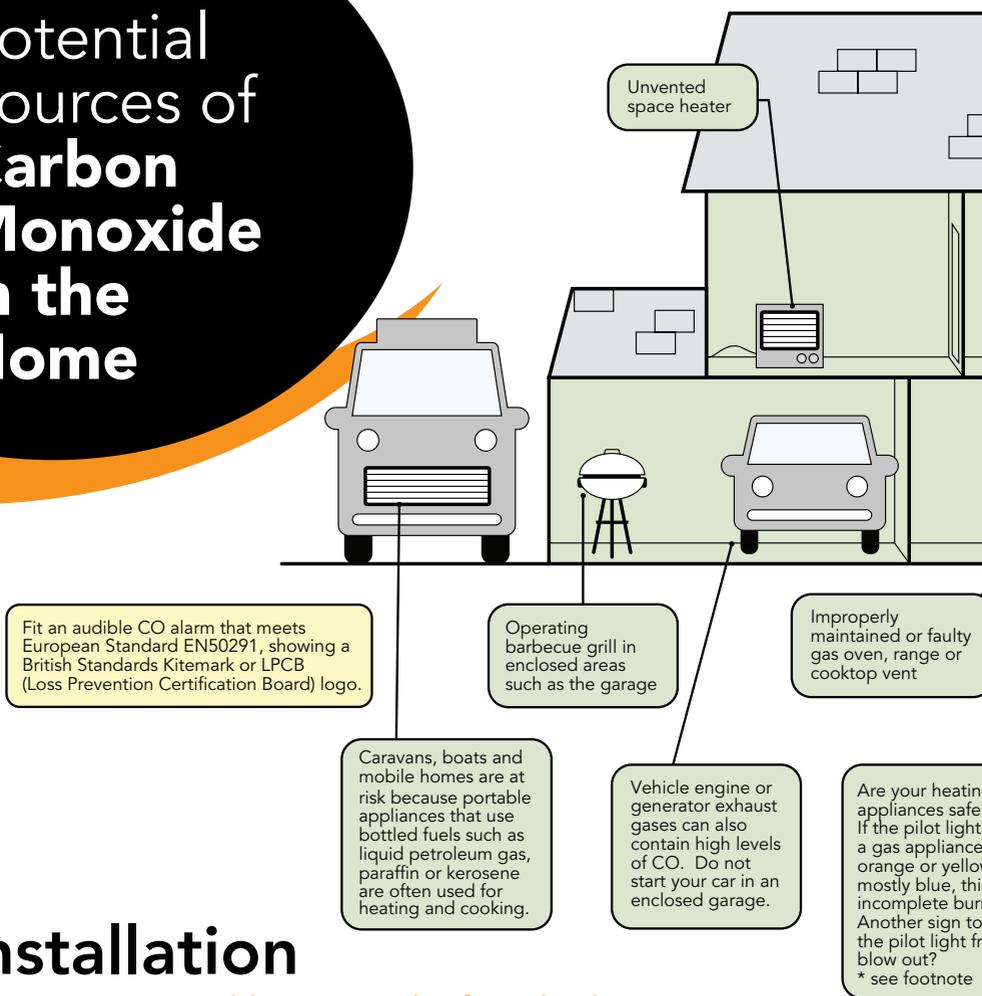


If you are having a gas appliance installed you must use a gas safe registered engineer. Gas safe register is the official list of gas engineers who are qualified to work safely and legally on gas appliances www.gassaferegister.co.uk

1.

2.

Potential Sources of Carbon Monoxide in the Home



Installation

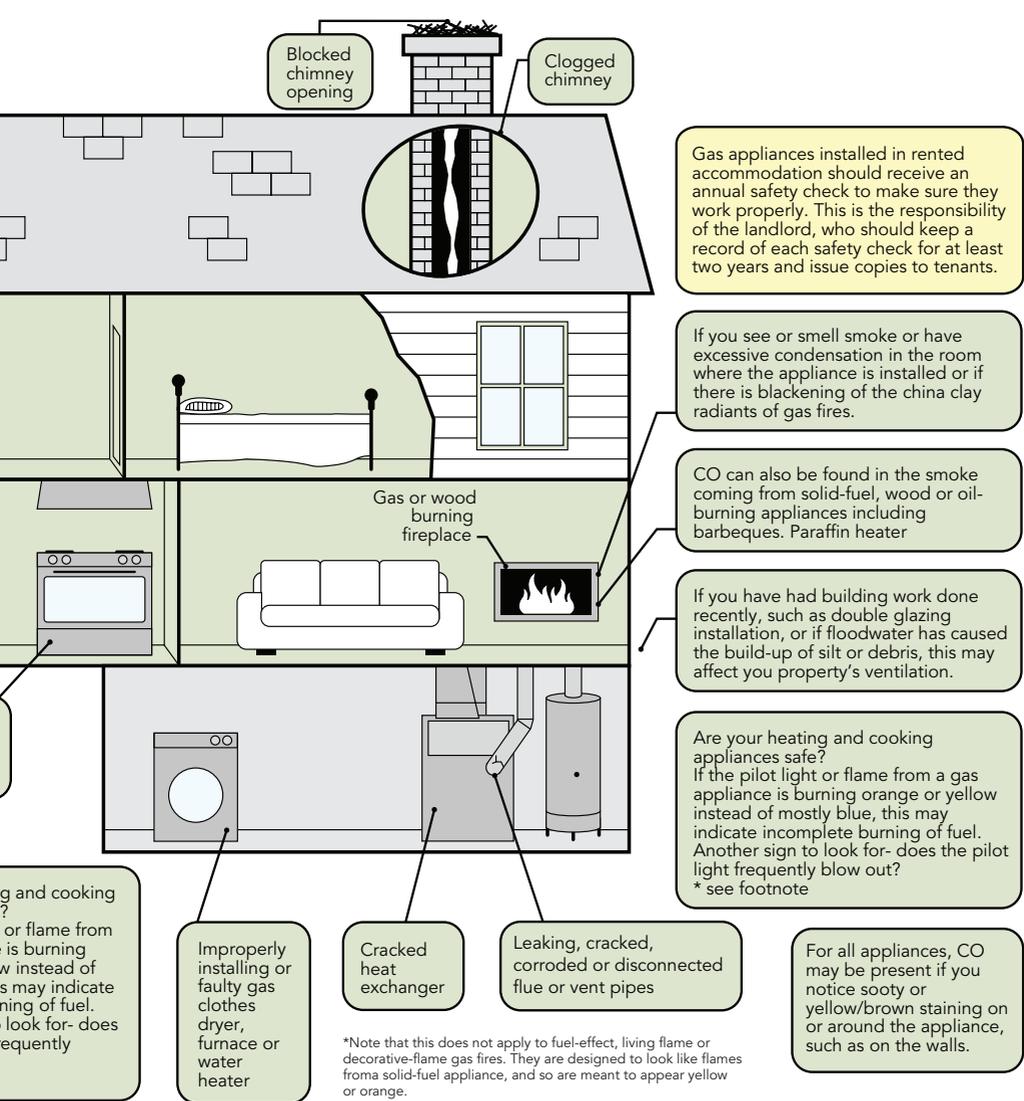
You must get a Building Control safety check

The installation of any wood burning or multi-fuel stoves (or any solid fuel appliance) and associated works, is work that is "controlled" under the Building Regulations, as is the relining or installation of flues and chimneys associated with such heat producing appliances.

It is a legal requirement for a householder to submit an application for Building Regulation approval, to their local Council Building Control

department, before undertaking this type of work. Building Regulations are designed to ensure a safe installation and cover key areas such as chimney / flue safety / the hearth / clearances to combustible materials / ventilation.

Applying to Building Control is an easy process. Contact your local Council Building Control department and ask for assistance with making an application. Alternatively, find the website of your local Council Building Control or go to



www.buildingcontrol-ni.com where you can obtain a downloadable application form and information on fees: You will be filling in the "Building Notice" section.

Please consult your local Council Building Control Department for clarification of the fee. Fees may vary depending on the

extent of work to be carried out.

At the end of the process you will receive paperwork that states your installation is legal and safe. This is also very often an important document when it comes to selling your property.

Building Control are not there to "catch you out", they are there to assist with compliance of the Building Regulations for installations to ensure your safety.

3. Using your appliance

You must use a fuel suitable for use with your appliance, remembering that most stoves are not designed to use 'normal' coal – refer to your instruction manual.

Never cover an appliance and ensure that there is adequate ventilation in rooms where stoves and gas appliances are used or where fumes/ smoke or carbon monoxide could build up.

Some appliances require a fresh air vent in the room where they are located. This is a permanently open vent to external air that must remain unblocked.



4. Maintaining your appliance

Appliances and flues should be cleaned at least once per year, more often if recommended by the manufacturer.

Chimneys should be swept at least twice a year when burning wood or coal and at least once a year when burning smokeless fuels.

Gas appliances should be serviced once per year by a Gas Safe certified engineer.



Fit a Carbon Monoxide alarm

5.



Carbon Monoxide alarms are a useful back-up precaution but must NOT be regarded as a substitute for proper installation, use and maintenance of equipment by a competent person.

When you buy a carbon monoxide alarm, ensure it meets current safety standards (BS EN 50291) and carries the Kitemark. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on siting, testing and replacing the alarm.

If your carbon monoxide alarm activates or you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

T

Turn off or extinguish the heating source / appliance (if safe to do so)

A

Air - ventilate your home by opening windows and doors. Stay outside in the fresh air.

S

Seek medical help if you feel unwell.

K

Keep all heating sources / appliances off until serviced (or chimney / flues cleaned) by a qualified professional.



CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS

Types of appliance at risk include

- Wood or multi-fuel burning stoves
- Central heating boilers
- Open fires
- Gas cookers
- Oil/solid fuel cookers
- Flues for gas or solid fuel appliances

CONTACTS SECTION

www.buildingcontrol-ni.com

www.gassaferegister.co.uk

www.hseni.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland

