

Gas Safety

Introduction

Gas is commonly used for space heating and catering. With care and proper attention, it can be used safely but there are significant hazards that have to be managed. For example,

- gas leaks can cause explosions
- the flue gasses from gas appliances can contain a toxic chemical and
- in the event of a fire, badly maintained gas systems can add fuel to the fire

What should we do?

Ensure that gas appliances (e.g. a boiler, cooker, water heater) are checked periodically (preferable annually), there is more information [here](#).

Install, check and maintain Carbon-monoxide (CO) alarms.

What are the risks from Carbon-monoxide (CO)?

The burning of gas in poorly ventilated areas, or by badly maintained equipment, or equipment with inadequate flues can give rise to carbon-monoxide (CO) poisoning. You cannot see, taste or smell CO but it can kill quickly without warning. It kills about 14 people in the UK each year.

Carbon-monoxide alarms give advance warning of CO in a property. These cost from £15 and can be purchased in most hardware shops. They are not a replacement for regular maintenance and safety checks. CO alarms should be installed and maintained in line with the manufacturer's instructions.



What about LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) and LNG (liquefied natural gas)?

LPG is flammable and heavier than air so that it will settle and may accumulate in low spots such as drains and basements. Here it could present a fire or explosion or suffocation hazard.

Mobile (e.g. heaters fuelled by bottled gas) and static gas appliances should be subject to periodic examinations by a competent person as described below.

If there is an externally sited LPG installation with a storage vessel then:

- The area around the vessel should be kept clear
- If it is near a road then it should be protected from passing traffic
- Any pipes carrying the LPG should be checked to ensure that they are in good condition

What do we do if we suspect that an appliance is unsafe?

It is illegal for anyone to use a gas appliance if they suspect it is unsafe. Turn the appliance off and do not touch it until it has been checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer (see below).

If you suspect there is a gas leak you should immediately do the following:

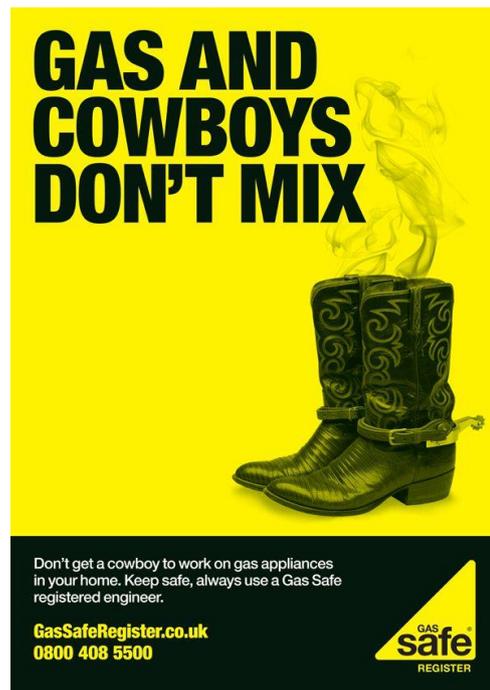
- Call National Grid's Gas Emergency Freephone number: 0800 111 999
- Open all the doors and windows
- Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve

Who is allowed to work on or check gas installations?

Only Gas Safe registered engineers are permitted to work on or check gas installations. This applies to both “piped” natural gas and bottled gas installations.

Gas Safe registered engineers carry an identity card. You should check that anyone working with your installation is registered. The front of the card has a photograph, a registration number and an expiry date and the reverse shows the different categories of work that the engineer is qualified to undertake, e.g. cookers, boilers, gas fires.

Information on how to find a Gas Safe registered engineer is available [here](#).



Legal Requirements

The relevant regulation is the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998.

Further Information

For further information see:

- A guide to landlords' duties under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg285.pdf>
- Information on Gas Safe registered engineers can be found at <https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/find-an-engineer/>
- Gas Appliances at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg238.pdf>
- Approved code of practice for gas systems and appliances <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/156.pdf>