

Carbon monoxide alarms

Landlords are required by law to install working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their properties. Carbon monoxide alarms are useful but only as a back-up precaution. They aren't a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of fuel burning appliances.

Make sure the alarm meets British Standard EN50291 and ideally has the British Standard Kitemark. You should install, check and service CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

CO alarms are available from DIY and hardware stores.

Useful information

Gas Safe register

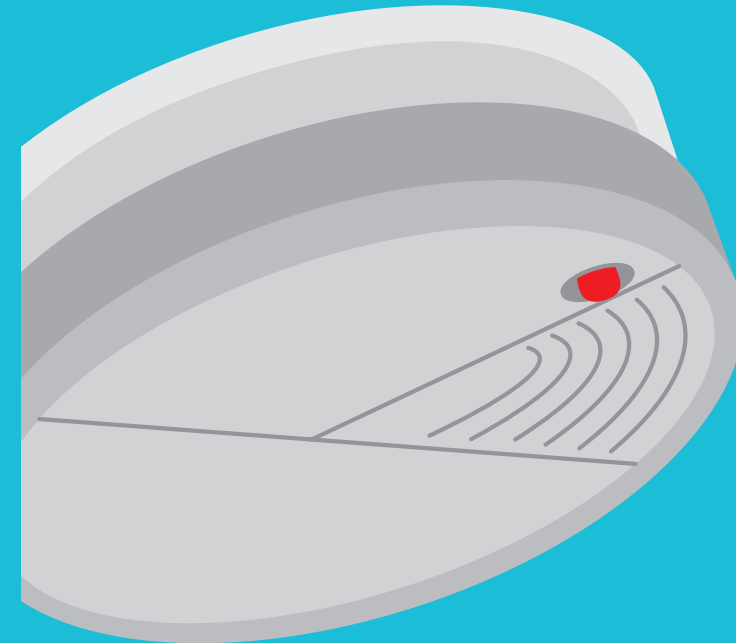
To check if an engineer is on the register visit www.gassaferegister.co.uk

For further carbon monoxide advice and support visit www.COvictim.org



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Carbon monoxide advice



For a free Home Fire Safety Check

Contact us

☎ 0800 05 02 999

@ firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

🌐 www.dsfire.gov.uk

Text info line: 078 00 00 2476

To request any information in this document in an alternative format or language please call **0800 05 02 999** or email firekills@dsfire.gov.uk



Carbon monoxide (CO)

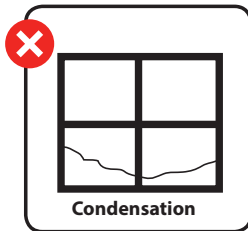
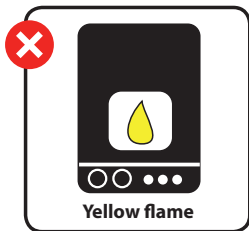
Carbon monoxide (CO) is the most common form of household poison. You can't see it, you can't taste it and you can't smell it.

CO gas is produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gas, oil, wood and coal. Carbon-based fuels are safe to use. It is only when the fuel does not burn properly that excess CO is produced, which is poisonous.

Poisoning occurs when any fuel burning appliance has not been properly installed, maintained or is poorly ventilated. Sources can include boilers, gas fires, central heating systems, water heaters, cookers and open fires.

The danger signs

- yellow or orange rather than blue flames (except fuel effect fires or flueless appliances which display this colour flame)
- soot or yellow/brown staining around appliances or fireplaces.
- pilot lights that frequently blow out
- increased condensation inside windows.



The symptoms

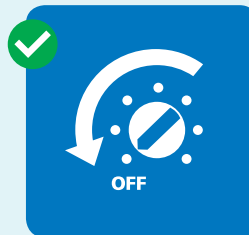
The early symptoms of poisoning can be easily confused with many common ailments and can develop quickly or over a number of days or months. Look out for:

- a headache – this is the most common symptom
- feeling sick and dizzy
- feeling tired and confused
- being sick and having stomach pain
- shortness of breath and difficulty breathing.

Take action

If you think you have carbon monoxide poisoning, you should:

- leave the contaminated area immediately and get out in to the open air
- seek urgent medical advice from either your GP or your A&E department
- open the windows and doors to ventilate the room, and don't sleep in it
- switch off all your gas appliances and don't use them again until the problem has been fixed



- shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve – if gas continues to escape, call the Gas Emergency free phone number on **0800 111 999**
- call a Gas Safe registered engineer to check all your gas appliances.

Top tips for prevention

- Ensure regular servicing of your fuel appliances.
- Installation, repair and regular servicing of any gas appliance should be done by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- Do not leave petrol fuelled lawn mowers or cars running in the garage.
- Make sure you have good ventilation and enough fresh air in the room containing your fuel appliance.
- Ensure chimneys/flues aren't blocked and vents aren't covered.
- Get your chimney swept from top to bottom at least once a year by a qualified sweep.
- Do not use barbecues in enclosed spaces, i.e. indoors or inside a tent or caravan.

