

The Law

The Health and Safety (Gas) (Guernsey) Ordinance 2006, place duties on gas consumers, installers, suppliers and landlords. For your own protection remember:

- By law anyone carrying out work on gas appliances or fittings as part of their business must be competent and registered with the Gas Safe Register. Always check your installer is registered by asking to see a current Gas Safe registration certificate or ringing the Gas Safe Register on 0800 408 5500;
- By law only a competent person can carry out work on gas appliances or fittings. Do-it-yourself work on gas appliances or fittings could be dangerous and is likely to be illegal;
- By law you must not use any gas appliance or fittings you know or suspect to be unsafe. Through the Gas Safe Register, HSE has asked all registered installers to disconnect any gas appliance or fittings, which are so dangerous as to be a threat to life if they are used. If your installer asks your permission to disconnect such an appliance or fitting, it will be in the interests of your own safety, and that of others, to agree. It is an offence to use the appliance / fitting that has been classed as unsafe. Before you use this appliance or fitting again, have it repaired by a Gas Safe registered installer;
- By law, landlords are generally responsible for making sure that gas fittings and flues are maintained in good order, and gas appliances and flues are checked for safety once in a period of 12 months. They must also keep a record of the safety checks for at least two years and issue it to existing tenants and any new tenants before they move in. If you own the appliance, you are responsible for its maintenance and safety checks;
- By law, with the exception of the room-sealed type, there are restrictions on the installation of gas appliances in sleeping accommodation. These restrictions apply only to appliances fitted after the Ordinance came into force. Non room-sealed appliances of less than 14 kilowatts may only be fitted if they have a device, which automatically turns the gas supply off before a dangerous level of fumes can build up. However, non room-sealed appliances above this threshold are prohibited in such accommodation;
- By law it is illegal to install instantaneous water heaters which are not room-sealed or fitted with a safety device which automatically turns the gas supply off before a dangerous level of poisonous fumes builds up.

If you need further advice about any of the gas safety issues mentioned in this leaflet, ring the Health & Safety Executive on (01481) 234567.

If you would like more detailed information on the subject, you'll find the following HSE publication useful: Safety in the Installation and Use of Gas Systems and Appliances, Approved Code of Practice and Guidance.



Health & Safety Executive
Commerce & Employment Department

Gas Appliances

Get them checked
Keep them safe



**This leaflet contains important information. Please read it.
It could save your life.**

The Problem

Gas is safe when installed and maintained correctly. The “Problem” is that not all gas appliances and flues are installed and maintained correctly. When gas does not burn properly, excess carbon monoxide is produced, which is poisonous.

You can't see it. You can't taste it. You can't even smell it.

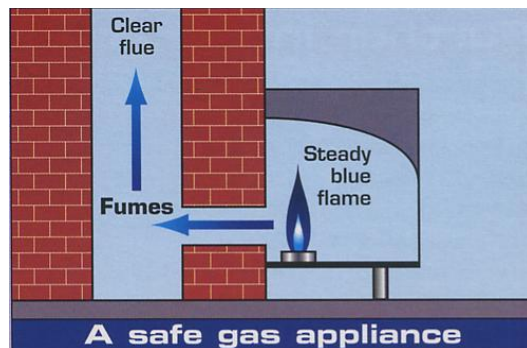
But carbon monoxide can kill without warning in just a matter of hours. You are particularly vulnerable when you are asleep.

The early symptoms of poisoning include tiredness, drowsiness, headache, pains in the chest and stomach pains.

You are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if:

- * Your appliance was poorly installed;
- * Your appliance is not working properly;
- * Your appliance has not been checked for safety or maintained regularly;
- * There is not enough fresh air in the room;
- * Your chimney or flue gets blocked up;
- * You allow unqualified people to install or maintain your appliance.

There is a particular risk if you sleep in a room where an appliance, which is not of the room-sealed type, is left burning at night. (Flue outlets for room-sealed appliances are commonly located on an external wall at a low level protected by a cage rather than at or above roof level).



Telephone GAS EMERGENCIES (DAY or NIGHT) - 749000

Investigations for making safe gas leaks are Free of Charge

The Answers

NEVER use a gas appliance if you think it's not working properly. Signs to look out for include yellow or orange flames, soot or stains around the appliance and pilot lights, which frequently blow out.

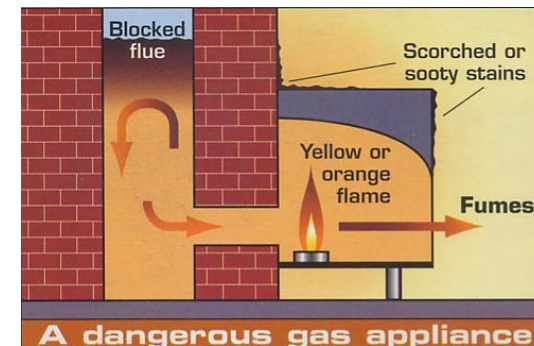
NEVER cover an appliance or block the convection air vents.

NEVER block or obstruct any fixed ventilation grilles or air bricks.

NEVER block or cover outside flues.

CAUTION: Whenever draught exclusion, double glazing or a conservatory extension is fitted to a room containing a gas appliance, the appliance should subsequently be checked for safety. ALL gas consumers are advised to have their appliances checked for safety at least every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered installer.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS are a useful back-up precaution but must NOT be regarded as a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of gas equipment by a Gas Safe registered installer. If you decide to buy a carbon monoxide alarm, ensure it complies with BS 7860 or BS EN 50291 and follow the manufacturer's siting instructions,



If you smell gas, or suspect there is a gas escape, you should immediately do the following:

- * Open all doors and windows.
- * Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve (if you know where it is)
- * **Telephone GAS EMERGENCIES (DAY or NIGHT) – 749000**
Investigations for making safe gas leaks are Free of Charge
- * In the case of suspected carbon monoxide leakage, follow the above procedure, except if you are able to identify the specific appliance at fault - then consult a Gas Safe registered installer to investigate and make repairs.