



Gas Safety

Every year about 30 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues which have not been properly installed or maintained. Many others also suffer ill health. When gas does not burn properly, as with other fuels such as coal, wood or oil, excess carbon monoxide is produced, which is poisonous.

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 at risk when you are asleep because you cannot recognise the early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. These include tiredness, drowsiness, headache, nausea, pains in the chest and stomach pains. These symptoms can mimic many common ailments and may easily be confused with flu or simple tiredness.

Landlords, Tenants, Letting Agents and Owner Occupiers all have different responsibilities when it comes to Gas Safety and some are legal requirements.

For Example:

Landlords

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 the latest certificate to existing tenants and any new tenants before they move in.

For a comprehensive list of all responsibilities and legal requirements please visit the Health & Safety Executive's (HSE) website at the following link:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/gas_law.htm#Tenant-responsibilities

For a list of Tenant's FAQ's, please visit the link below:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/fagtenant.htm>

The HSE have also produced a leaflet that you can download:

[Gas Appliances. Get them checked - Keep them safe.](#)

Gas Leaks

Transco, the gas pipeline company, is responsible for dealing with gas leaks and emergencies. If you smell gas or if you suspect that there has been an escape of other fumes such as Carbon Monoxide (CO), call the free 24 hour national emergency number on **0800 111 999**.

Transco engineers will attend any gas leak free of charge. If the leak is inside your home, they may make it safe by turning off the supply. However, if it is safe to do so they will maintain the supply for heating and cooking appliances. If the Transco engineer can fix the appliance or pipe work that is leaking within 30 minutes, and at a cost of no more than £4.65, they will do so. If not, they will isolate the appliance (to prevent unsafe use) and turn the gas back on, if it is safe to do so. The engineer will leave behind information about who to contact to have the appliance repaired. ([Repairing gas appliances and pipes in your home](#)) If Transco has caused the disruption of supply to your home, you will be entitled to compensation, if you are without gas for more than 24 hours. You should contact your supplier if this applies to you.

What you should do if you suspect a leak:

- OPEN DOORS AND WINDOWS
 - MAKE SURE THAT THE GAS SUPPLY TO AN APPLIANCE HAS NOT BEEN LEFT ON OR THAT THE PILOT LIGHT HAS NOT GONE OUT
 - TURN THE SUPPLY OFF AT THE METER
 - DO NOT USE MATCHES OR NAKED FLAMES
 - DO NOT SMOKE
 - DO NOT TURN ANY ELECTRICAL SWITCHES ON OR OFF - INCLUDING LIGHT SWITCHES AND DOORBELLS
-

If you require any further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact us:

University of Sunderland Students' Union
Welfare Advice Centre
1st Floor Wearmouth Hall
Chester Road
Sunderland
SR1 3SD

Opening Times: Monday to Wednesday 9-30 to 5-30
 Thursday and Friday 9-30 to 4-30

Tel: 0191 514 5512
Fax: 0191 515 2441

Email: sac@sunderland.ac.uk