

Gas Safety Information

Gas can be dangerous, and it is therefore advisable to have a general knowledge and understanding of basic safety checks and what to do in an emergency.



If You Smell Gas or Suspect there is a Leak

- [Turn off](#) the gas at the stop tap
- [Open windows and doors](#) to provide ventilation
- [Do not](#) try to find the leak by using a naked flame such a match or lighter
- [Do not](#) light cigarettes
- [Do not](#) turn electrical switches (such as light switches) on or off
- [Call the National Gas Emergency Service](#) on:

Freephone 0800 111 999



General Information

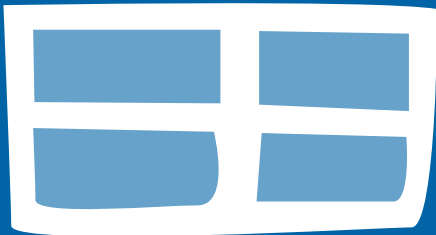
Make sure you know where to turn your gas off at the mains. It is usually situated close to your gas meter. As a general guide, when the handle is at right angles to the pipe the gas supply is off. When the handle is in line with the pipe, the gas supply is on.

Make sure there is adequate ventilation in any rooms where gas appliances are situated. Look for gratings or ventilators in the outside wall or in windows and carry out regular inspections to make sure they are not blocked or obstructed.

Most new gas appliances do not have a pilot light as they use electronic ignition. However, if you have an older appliance with a pilot light, make sure you know how it works. Keep a copy of the instructions in a safe place next to the appliance.

Use a pipe detector if you are going to be drilling or hammering nails into a wall or floor. These are available to buy in DIY stores.

Do not use an appliance if you suspect it is faulty. Arrange for a Gas Safe registered engineer to check it over and repair/replace if necessary. Check that the Gas Safe Engineer is registered for the type of appliance that needs to be checked (their identity card will show this).



Why can Gas be Dangerous?

Carbon monoxide may be formed if gas does not burn properly. Carbon monoxide has no smell and can kill. The main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to flu and can include:

- Drowsiness
- Weakness
- Headaches
- Feeling sick
- Pains in the chest

Visit your GP or local hospital immediately if you suspect your symptoms are a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide detectors are available from most DIY stores. Plug in detectors are more reliable than battery operated ones as batteries can run out without warning.

The most reliable type are those that are hard wired. You should always position them in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Always make sure there is permanent adequate ventilation in rooms with gas fires. A Gas Safe registered engineer will be able

to provide you with advice if you are not sure if you have adequate ventilation.

Gas Fires

New gas fires have a built in safety device known as an oxygen depletion safety system (ODS). This means that the gas fire will turn off automatically if there is not enough fresh air in the room. As older gas fires do not have an ODS they should only be used in rooms that have a permanent source of fresh air and should always be switched off during the night.



Water Heaters and Boilers

All modern boilers and water heaters have a balanced flue that allows air to be taken in and waste gases to flow out. Carry out regular inspections to make sure the air vent is not blocked on the outside. Older appliances may include open flue types which need combustion ventilation direct from outside into the room which the appliance is fitted. If you have an older boiler or water heater it is important to make sure there is a good permanent supply of air available from outside. If you have any concerns about the safety of your boiler or water heater, stop using it and contact a Gas Safe registered engineer to have it checked. It is also recommended that you have the appliance serviced annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

If the pilot light has gone out, you can try to re-light it yourself by following the instructions with the boiler. These are available in the instruction manual or, if this has been lost, the manufacturer usually prints easy to follow lighting instructions on the inside door of the boiler. Call a Gas Safe registered engineer if this does not work or if the pilot light goes out again.

The pilot light usually comes on automatically when needed on most

modern boilers. This means less gas is used than with an older type of boiler where the pilot light is burning 24 hours a day.

Do not attempt any repairs to your boiler or water heater and use only a Gas Safe registered engineer.

Sooty Marks Around the Gas Fire Or Boiler

If sooty marks suddenly appear around your appliance, this is a sign of fumes failing to escape properly. Switch off the appliance and have it checked over by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

Yellow or Orange Flames

If the flames on your gas fire are no longer blue and have turned yellow or orange, do not use the appliance until it has been checked out. "Real flame" fires are designed to have yellow flames but if they turn orange or appear to be elongated, get the appliance checked before using it again.

Privately Rented Properties

A safety check must be carried out within 12 months of the last check and documentation should be provided to confirm it is safe to use. This is known as a Landlords Gas Safety Certificate. If your landlord fails to do this (or you have concerns

about the conditions in your rented property), contact Aberdeenshire Council Private Sector Housing Team; Email landlordregistration@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or call 01467 534853

Gas Safety Register

Anyone carrying out work to gas supplies and appliances MUST be on the Gas Safe Register (formerly CORGI). To find a list of qualified contractors contact the Gas Safe Register on 0800 408 5500 9am to 5.30pm Monday – Friday.

Gas Safe Register

PO Box 6804

Basingstoke

RG24 4NB

enquiries@gassaferegister.co.uk

www.gassaferegister.co.uk

Other Types of Gas (Bottle, LPG etc)

LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) is commonly bought in steel cylinders. It can be highly dangerous and should be stored very carefully. LPG cylinders should be kept away from heat and stored in a place where they can not be damaged. Appliances run on LPG should only be used in a well ventilated room. Such appliances can often increase condensation in your home. There is no emergency contact if gas escapes so you need to know where the emergency control valve or stop tap is. Such appliances can often increase condensation in your home. A leaflet is available providing information on how to deal with problems associated with condensation and damp in your home.

For further information please contact the Private Sector Housing Team at private.housing@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or call **01467 534753**



