

# Carbon monoxide kills

*You can't smell it, see it or taste it but it's lethal*

Carbon monoxide is an odourless, colourless, tasteless, poisonous gas that can be given off by any appliance (heaters, boilers, fires etc) that burns gas, oil, coal or wood.

All gas, oil or solid fuel appliances can produce carbon monoxide if they:

- \* have insufficient air
- \* need maintenance
- \* have blocked flues
- \* are faulty or damaged

Because carbon monoxide is much more easily dissolved in the blood than oxygen, it reduces the blood's capacity to deliver oxygen to vital organs.

Symptoms of mild poisoning, such as headaches, dizziness and sickness, are often confused with

flu, sometimes with fatal consequences. Exposure to carbon monoxide, if not fatal, can have other lasting consequences, including severe effects on an unborn child.

## What should you do?

- \* Ensure that air vents and flues are kept clear of obstructions.
- \* If a heating appliance becomes damaged or you suspect it may be producing carbon monoxide, stop using it, and report the condition without delay to your local Housing office.
- \* To maintain your heating equipment in a safe condition, the Council will arrange for it to be serviced every year, by a qualified person, so it is vital that you allow access for this work to be carried out.

## For further information contact:

### Gas:

Gas Safety Advice Line 0800 300 363  
Health & Safety Executive  
[www.hse.gov.uk/gas](http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas)

### Solid Fuel:

The Solid Fuel Association Helpline 0845 6014406  
[www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk)

### Oil:

Oil Firing Technical Association for the  
Petroleum Industry 0845 65 85 080  
[www.oftec.co.uk](http://www.oftec.co.uk)

[www.trustcorgi.com/carbonmonoxidekills](http://www.trustcorgi.com/carbonmonoxidekills)

# KILLED IN HER BED

