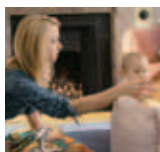


important safety information

Please read carefully and retain for further reference.



natural gas **putting safety first**

24 hour gas emergency service **1850 20 50 50**



Think Safety. Think RGI.

2

In your home, safety comes first. If you are having a natural gas appliance installed, serviced or repaired, **always use a Registered Gas Installer (RGI)**. By law, only a Registered Gas Installer is permitted to work on domestic natural gas installations. A Registered Gas Installer is fully insured and trained in gas safety.

Service appliances annually

As a homeowner or a provider of accommodation (e.g. landlords), under the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006, you are the person responsible for ensuring that the natural gas appliances and installation pipework

in your premises are safely maintained. You should have your boiler and other natural gas appliances serviced by a Registered Gas Installer once a year. If you are concerned that an appliance is not operating safely, or your appliances are not in good condition, have a safety inspection conducted by a Registered Gas Installer.

Conformance Certificate

A Registered Gas Installer will provide you with a Declaration of Conformance Certificate confirming that the gas work was carried out in conformance with the correct standards and is safe to use. This is an important document, so keep it in a safe place.

To find a Registered Gas Installer in your area, call 1850 454 454 or visit www.rgii.ie

doing home improvements?

Home alterations

When adding an extension, converting a garage, double-glazing or weather-sealing doors, you should always consider the ventilation requirement for your appliances. Particular restrictions apply where a living space is to be used as a bedroom or a bathroom. For professional advice on your appliances before embarking on home alterations, contact a Registered Gas Installer.



Changing the use of a room to a bedroom?

Some gas fire types and all boilers which are not 'room sealed' must not be located in a bedroom. If you are considering changing the use of a living room with gas appliances to use as a bedroom, it is important to take account of your gas appliances and seek professional advice from a Registered Gas Installer.

Think before THEY dig

Every year underground gas pipes are damaged during small jobs around the home, such as building extensions, new driveways, garden walls or landscaping. If you are planning to have work done on your property, always be aware of gas pipes that run underground. If you are employing a builder or contractor, make sure to remind them to always dial before they dig by calling **1850 42 77 47**. Bord Gáis Networks will provide the necessary information for working safely in the vicinity of gas pipes. In the interests of your safety, that of your family and of those carrying out the work, it is important to check the location of these underground pipes **before** beginning any work.

3



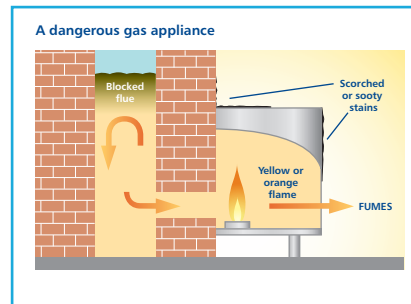
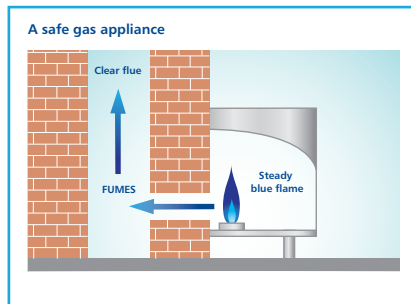
carbon **monoxide**

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and poisonous gas. It can be produced by any appliance which burns a fossil fuel such as gas, coal or oil. If a person is exposed to carbon monoxide over time, it can cause illness, even death. In normal conditions the combustion process will cause the carbon in the fossil fuel to combine with oxygen in the air to produce carbon dioxide (CO₂), the same substance we exhale when we breathe. However, if there is a lack of air for the combustion process, or the appliance is faulty, carbon monoxide (CO) can be produced.



4



Know the danger signs

Watch out for any of the warning signs that your appliance is not functioning properly:

- Staining, sooting or discolouration around the appliance.
- Condensation on walls/windows.
- A strange smell when the appliance is on.
- A yellow or orange flame where normally blue for a gas appliance.
- Flu-like symptoms such as drowsiness or headaches.



Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning

You can be in danger of carbon monoxide poisoning at home if your appliance is faulty, the room is not properly ventilated, or if the chimney or flue is blocked. When carbon monoxide is inhaled into the body, it combines with the blood and prevents it from absorbing oxygen.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, chest pains, sickness, diarrhoea and general lethargy. If anyone in your house has any of these symptoms, get fresh air immediately and then go to your doctor and ask him/her to check for carbon monoxide poisoning. If you suspect an appliance may be faulty, stop using it immediately and arrange for a safety inspection.

Remember

- Ensure your appliances are installed and serviced annually by a **Registered Gas Installer**, Registered Oil Technician or qualified service agent for your fuel type.
- Ensure rooms are properly ventilated and that all chimneys and flues are kept clear.
- Never block vents.
- Use appliances only for the PURPOSE for which they were designed, e.g. do not use a cooker to heat a room.

5

Carbon monoxide alarms

Use carbon monoxide alarms but remember these are no substitute for regular inspection and maintenance of appliances, vents, flues and chimneys. Check that the carbon monoxide alarm complies with European Standard EN 50291 and carries the CE mark and an independent certification mark. Ensure that the carbon monoxide alarm has an 'end-of-life' indicator. Some Registered Gas Installers will supply and fit carbon monoxide alarms in addition to servicing your appliance(s). Carbon monoxide alarms are available from most hardware, D.I.Y. and electrical stores. Always install alarms as per manufacturers' instructions. Remember more than one alarm may be required to provide adequate protection.



Further information

For further information on carbon monoxide or to arrange for a safety inspection

please call **1850 79 79 79**

Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm

Saturday, 9am – 5.30pm

www.carbonmonoxide.ie

further **safety information**

■ Choose room-sealed appliances

With room-sealed appliances, fresh air intake for combustion comes from outside of the house and emissions are then discharged outside also. As such, the air in the room where the appliance is fitted is not used or affected by the appliance. Room-sealed appliances (balanced flue or fanned draught types) are recommended for new and replacement boilers and water heaters.



■ Do you have an unsafe water heater?

Flueless gas water heaters are considered dangerous because they consume the air inside the room. This causes the products of combustion – which may include toxic carbon monoxide – to discharge directly into the room where the heater is fitted. If used for extended periods, the levels of carbon monoxide may build up to dangerous levels if there is a lack of ventilation.



Open flue-type water heaters located in bathrooms are also considered unsafe. If you think you may have an unsafe gas water heater, contact Bord Gáis Networks now on **1850 79 79 79** for a free safety check.



■ Gas cookers and hobs

A flame failure device is a protective device built into a hotplate, oven or gas burner which shuts off the gas supply when the flame is no longer detected. In this way the device protects against a possible build-up of unburned gas. For example, if the burner flame is extinguished or the user forgets to light the burner, you will be protected.

All new cookers and hobs sold in Ireland since 2005 require flame failure devices to be fitted on all burners. If your cooker or hob was fitted prior to 2005 it may not have a flame failure device on all burners. Check with your local gas cooker retailer for further advice.

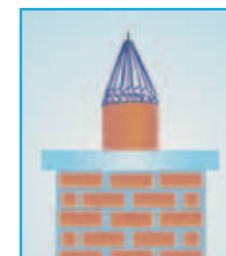
Never use a gas cooker as a heating appliance and never close the door of a gas grill while the grill is lit.

■ Do you have a gas boiler which previously ran on oil?

In the past, existing oil boilers were modified to operate on natural gas. This was achieved by replacing the oil burner on the unit with a gas burner, with the old boiler casing and heat exchanger being retained. If you think you might have such an appliance contact Bord Gáis Networks on **1850 79 79 79** for a free safety check.

■ Have your chimney swept regularly

as they can become blocked over time. The nesting of birds in the chimney may cause a blockage preventing the products of combustion from the fire leaving the building. It is recommended that **Crow Guards** are fitted on all chimneys with gas fires fitted prior to 1996. These older fire types may not have the additional safety features which turn off the gas fire in such circumstances.



■ Going on holidays?

If you go on holidays, make sure your appliances are turned off. However, in very cold weather, your central heating boiler can be left operating at a low setting in order to prevent water pipes from freezing.

■ Have you got a meter box key?

You will require a meter box key to open your meter box door to turn on or off your gas supply. It is important to keep your meter box key in a safe and accessible place. If you require a meter box key, please call Bord Gáis Networks on **1850 200 694** or visit www.bordgais.ie/networks/



■ Wheelie bins

Where possible, do not store waste materials or wheelie bins on or adjacent to the gas meter as this increases the potential fire risk if the waste material is ignited.

if you **smell gas**

at home



Ensure gas appliances haven't been left on and unlit.



Don't smoke or use a naked flame.



Don't unplug or switch anything electrical on or off.

8



Open windows and doors to let the gas disperse.



If your appliances are off but the smell persists, turn off the gas at the meter.

Call our 24 Hour Emergency Service 1850 20 50 50.

If you can't get through, dial 999.

Don't use a phone in the immediate area of the leak, use a neighbour's or call from outside.

on the street

Call our 24 Hour Emergency Service 1850 20 50 50.

Don't assume someone else has reported the smell.

In the interests of public safety all emergency calls are recorded.