

## OTHER SIGNS OF CO POISONING:

1. Your symptoms only occur when you are at home and seem to disappear when you leave your home.
2. Others in your household (including pets) are experiencing similar symptoms and appear at the same time.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT CO POISONING?

- Get fresh air immediately. Open all doors and windows to ventilate the area.
- Switch off the appliance and leave the house.
- Seek medical advice immediately – let them know that you suspect you are suffering from CO poisoning. They can conduct a blood or breath test to determine if you have been exposed to heightened levels of CO.
- **If you think there is an immediate danger regarding a gas appliance then call the Gas Emergency Helpline on 0800 111 999.**
- Contact Newark and Sherwood District Council to have the appliance checked on 01636 650000.

## OTHER WARNING SIGNS OF A CO LEAK:

1. Flames of a lazy yellow or orange colour on your gas hob, rather than being a crisp blue;
2. Dark staining on/around appliances;
3. Pilot lights that frequently blow out;
4. Increased condensation inside windows.

### WARNING!

Unserviced or faulty fuel burning appliances can lead to CO poisoning!

Remember! The first line of defence against CO poisoning is to ensure that the appliance is serviced and maintained annually.

Newark and Sherwood District Council carry out the safety checks annually to ensure the continued safe operation of fuel burning appliances within your home.

### EARLY DETECTION

Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide alarm. These devices can alert you to dangerous levels of CO before symptoms appear. If your CO alarm is not operational, please contact Newark and Sherwood District Council to get this replaced on 01636 650000.

Call 01636 650000 for further information regarding your Property Health & Safety Checks.

# CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY



# WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)?

## WHAT ARE THE CARBON MONOXIDE RISKS WITHIN YOUR HOME?

Fuels like gas, coal, oil, wood and petrol can produce carbon monoxide if they don't burn properly due to poor ventilation. This could be caused by blocking off ventilation which are specifically installed to provide adequate air flow for heating appliances, as well as defective or blockages/ breaks in chimneys and flues. It is essential that all fuel burning appliances are serviced and maintained regularly, using suitably qualified engineers.

It is important to note that it is not only central heating appliances that can cause carbon monoxide poisoning and

cookers, fires, room heaters, stoves, water heaters, barbecues can also produce CO if there's an insufficient supply of oxygen.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STAY SAFE?

- Test your CO alarm monthly, and if faulty contact Newark and Sherwood District Council on **01636 650000**.
- Allow Newark and Sherwood District Council access to your home to conduct the Property Health & Safety Check, where all fuel burning appliances are checked to ensure they're operating effectively and are safe for use.
- Never cover or block central heating appliances, air vents, grills, air bricks and outside flues as these require a fresh supply of air to operate safely.
- Ensure that your own appliances such as cookers, fires etc. are regularly serviced and maintained by competent and qualified engineers. Contact details for appropriately qualified engineers can be sourced via:

**Gas:** [www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk)  
**Solid Fuel:** [www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk)  
**Oil:** [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org)

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as the 'Silent Killer' as it has no smell, taste or colour and causes a number of deaths each year with many more people becoming seriously ill when exposed to high concentrations of CO.

- If you suspect a fault with any central heating appliance then do not use it and contact us on **01636 650000**. Alternatively if you think there is an immediate danger with a gas appliance then call the Gas Emergency Helpline on **0800 111 999**.
- Do not use portable fuel burning appliances, generators, barbecues inside your home or other confined spaces.
- Do not sleep in the same room as a back boiler unit or solid fuel boiler/fire.
- Do not use portable fuel burning appliances.

## WHAT ARE THE SIX MAIN SYMPTOMS TO LOOK OUT FOR?

- 1. Headaches**
- 2. Dizziness**
- 3. Nausea**
- 4. Breathlessness**
- 5. Collapse**
- 6. Loss of consciousness**

