

# CORGI helps you to use gas safely



## Using gas safely in your home

Gas is a safe, versatile and cost-effective fuel to use in your home for cooking and heating. CORGI is here to help to make sure that using gas at home remains safe and convenient.

Using specialists approved by CORGI to install, check and maintain your gas appliances will mean that you, your family and friends will not be at risk of a gas explosion or carbon monoxide poisoning. **Anyone who is doing gas work in your home and is not CORGI registered is working illegally, and is putting you and your family in danger.**

You must get your gas appliances safety checked every year, to make sure that they are not producing carbon monoxide. **Carbon monoxide is highly poisonous** and is produced when gas appliances are not working properly. It has no colour, taste or smell, and can kill very quickly if not detected.

This leaflet briefly explains who CORGI are, what we do, and what you need to do to make sure that you stay safe when using gas at home.

## Why does CORGI exist?

CORGI is the national watchdog for gas safety in the United Kingdom. We are a public body, and report to the government's Health and Safety Executive.

Our main role is to make sure the public are protected from unsafe gas work carried out in their homes. We do this by maintaining an up-to-date register of fully-qualified gas installers and tradesmen. If an installer is on our register, it means that they are a gas expert, and that they have undergone extensive training to get on the register. This means that it is safe to use them to carry out gas work in your home.

We also maintain a register of CORGI qualified plumbers, electricians and ventilation experts, who have gone through the same high standard of training as our installers. We are committed to providing you with access to safe and competent tradespeople.

## If they're not CORGI, they're illegal

Anyone employed to carry out **any** gas-related work in your home **must be registered with CORGI**. It's the law. If they are not CORGI registered, then they are working illegally. And it is **not safe**.

## How do you find someone who's CORGI registered?

We can help you to find an installer who is CORGI registered. Just visit our website at [www.trustcorgi.com](http://www.trustcorgi.com) and select the 'Find an installer' link. Or you can call us on **0800 915 0485**. You'll be put through to someone who speaks your language, and can help you. If you have already found an installer, you can check if they are CORGI registered on the website or by telephone.

You should also check that your tradesman is CORGI registered when they arrive to do the work. **Always ask to see their CORGI ID card**. Everyone who is registered gets issued a card. Check that their photo matches, that the card hasn't expired, and look for the CORGI registered logo and number – an orange shield on the front of the card.

You should report anyone you think is doing gas work without being CORGI registered. It's illegal and it's unsafe. Just call 0800 915 0485.

## Check your ventilation regularly

Some gas appliances have air vents, or passageways called 'flues' installed to make them work safely. If vents and flues are blocked, then carbon monoxide can be produced. Make sure that they are always clear, and that they are not blocked by birds' nests, soot, builders' rubble and even spider webs. If you have chimneys, have them swept regularly.

You should also get your gas appliances safety checked **at least once a year**.

## Fit a carbon monoxide alarm

As carbon monoxide has no colour, taste or smell, it is vital that you **install a carbon monoxide alarm**. This will warn you if there is carbon monoxide present in your house.

You should install an alarm that you can hear, instead of a 'black spot' detector. Always use an alarm that has the European standard. This means it's safe.

But remember: having an alarm is not a substitute for getting your appliances checked.

### **What you need to know as a tenant**

Your landlord has to make sure that all gas pipes and appliances in the property are safe. The landlord should also make sure that all gas appliances are safety checked every year, and that the check is carried out by a CORGI registered installer.

You should be given a copy of the most recent safety check, and you can also ask to see the record of the safety checks for the property from the previous two years.

If your landlord manages the property through an agent, you should ask to see details of the arrangements about who is responsible for gas safety checks.

You will need to allow the landlord access to the property to carry out any safety checks or maintenance work. You and the landlord should ask to see the tradesman's CORGI card before they start any work.

If you think that any gas appliance is unsafe, turn it off and do not use it until you've been told it is safe by a CORGI registered member. **It is against the law to use, or allow the use of, a gas appliance that you know or think is unsafe.**

### **What if there's an emergency?**

If you think you smell gas, think there's a gas leak or suspect that there is carbon monoxide in your house you should **immediately**:

- Turn off the gas supply at the meter.
- Put out any naked flames.
- Open doors and windows.
- If you think someone has been exposed to carbon monoxide, get medical help. Make sure the victim is kept still, and is breathing fresh air.
- If necessary, call 999 and ask for the relevant emergency service.

**Do not** use electrical switches – turning them on or off could cause a spark.

### **Emergency numbers and useful contacts**

- Gas Emergency Number (England, Scotland and Wales):  
**0800 111 999**
- Gas Emergency Number (Northern Ireland):  
**0800 002 001**
- Gas Emergency Number (Isle of Man):  
**01624 644 444**

CORGI helpline: **0800 915 0485**

Website: **[www.trustcorgi.com](http://www.trustcorgi.com)**