

GAS SAFETY FACTSHEET FOR CARERS

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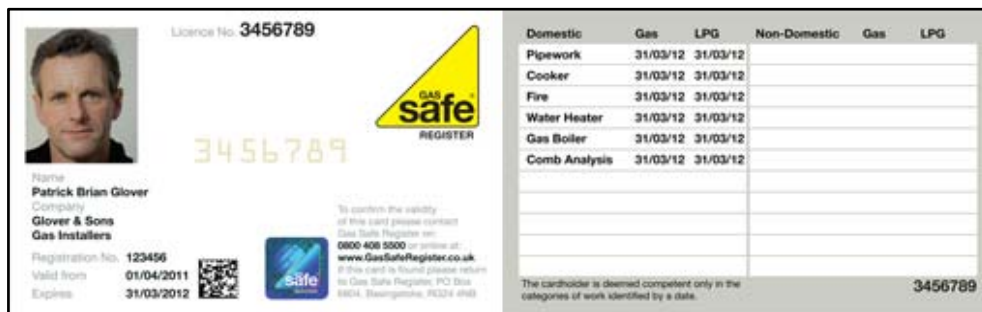
This factsheet is about gas safety in the home and is intended for those that care for the elderly.

About Gas Safe Register

In the right hands, gas is safe, but poorly fitted and badly maintained gas appliances or equipment can be dangerous. The Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas engineers who are legally allowed to work on your gas appliances. You may remember it used to be called Corgi. Gas Safe Register can help you find a local Gas Safe registered engineer and tell you if they're qualified for the type work you need them to do. **Call the free helpline on 0800 408 5500** or go to **www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk**.

Check the ID card

Only an engineer on the Gas Safe Register should fit, fix or service gas appliances. It is important to check the identity of the gas engineer when they arrive to carry out gas work. All Gas Safe registered engineers carry a Gas Safe ID card, with their own unique licence number. You may prefer to check this card for the person that you care for. All gas work is different and the back of the ID card tells you if they're registered for the specific job you need them to do.



Have regular servicing and maintenance

It is important that you encourage the person that you care for to get all their gas appliances checked regularly. Get the gas boiler, gas fire and gas cooker checked once a year by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Annual maintenance not only helps keep the heating and hot water working properly, it helps keep the person you are responsible for safe.

Look out for signs of carbon monoxide

Unsafe gas appliances can produce a highly poisonous gas called carbon monoxide. This gas has no taste, colour or smell and it can make you feel seriously ill and can kill quickly without warning. Look out for these signs that could indicate that a gas appliance is not working correctly and carbon monoxide may be present in the house.

Does the person who you are caring for have any of these symptoms?

- headaches
- dizziness
- collapse
- nausea
- breathlessness
- loss of consciousness

Do they feel better when they leave the house? These are common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and it is best to get these symptoms checked by a doctor.

Is the flame from the gas appliance yellow and lazy?

Have a look at the gas flame, for example whilst cooking. The flame should be crisp and blue. A floppy yellow or orange flame may be a sign that the appliance is not working correctly and is producing carbon monoxide.

Is there sooting or staining?

Dark staining around an appliance like a gas fire is a sign that it may not be working correctly and is producing carbon monoxide.

Is there a build up of condensation?

A build up of condensation in the room where there is a gas appliance is a sign that an appliance may not be working correctly and is producing carbon monoxide.

If you suspect an appliance may not be working correctly...

Turn the appliance off and call a Gas Safe registered engineer to check the appliance. If you smell gas or think there might be a gas leak, turn off the gas at the meter, put out naked flames, open windows and immediately call the gas emergency number on **0800 111 999** (available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year)

How else can you help?

Is there a carbon monoxide alarm in the property?

If they don't have a carbon monoxide alarm, encourage them to buy one. They cost around £20 from DIY shops, supermarkets or your energy supplier. Remember to get an audible alarm as the 'black spot' detectors will not make a sound to wake people up if the poisonous gas is present while they are sleeping. Special carbon monoxide alarms are available for the hard of hearing.

Are vents or chimneys blocked to stop draughts?

Gas appliances need ventilation to work correctly and it is important that these are not blocked to stop draughts.

Does the person you care for use the cooker to heat a room?

Only use the gas boiler, gas fire and gas cooker as intended. For example, it can be dangerous to use a gas cooker as a form of heating. Cookers can produce carbon monoxide when they are in use and using these appliances incorrectly could lead to a build up of carbon monoxide. If you see the person you care for using a cooker to heat a room you must turn the cooker off and open a window to get some ventilation into the room.

Is the person you care for renting their home?

In rental properties the landlord has to have the gas appliances safety checked once a year by law. For proof of this annual check, the landlord must by law give the tenant a copy of the Landlord's Gas Safety Record.

Gas safety tips

- Only use a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix or service your gas appliances.
- You can find or check a Gas Safe registered engineer by calling **0800 408 5500**.
- Always check your engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card.
- Get your gas appliances regularly serviced and safety checked every year.
- The poisonous gas carbon monoxide cannot be seen or smelt. Fit a carbon monoxide alarm to alert you if there is carbon monoxide in your home.
- To have a chat about gas safety call our free helpline on **0800 408 5500**