

# STAY GAS SAFE DURING HOME IMPROVEMENTS

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## Improving your home?

If you are thinking about home improvements, you will need to consider the impact that the work could have on the safety of your gas appliances. Unsafe gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Case study:** In 2009 a couple in their 70s died from carbon monoxide poisoning after having building work carried out at their home. The work included raising the height of the garage roof, which had enclosed the boiler flue and resulted in deadly carbon monoxide entering the property.

## What action should be taken?

- Always ensure your tradesperson uses a suitably qualified Gas Safe registered engineer for any gas work to be undertaken. You can check an engineer's registration status and qualifications at [GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://GasSafeRegister.co.uk)
- Your tradesperson should always conduct and document the findings of a **risk assessment**. This should identify any risk and control measures to ensure gas safety is not compromised during the project. Even if your project doesn't include direct gas work there are other factors you should be aware of.

## Examples of works that could have an impact

### New conservatory

Ensure flues will not become enclosed and they are the required distance from new windows or openings. If a flue needs to be moved this must be carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

### Scaffolding

If you are having scaffolding erected or removed, consider if the work could cover or damage a chimney terminal outlet or flue.

### Replacing or blocking air vents

If you are blocking off or removing vents, make sure this does not impact on the safe operation of your gas appliances.

## External cladding

Always ensure vents, chimneys and flues are not removed, damaged or obstructed if they are part of the requirements for the safe operation of gas appliances such as boilers or fires.



## Kitchen/building extension

If this involves moving existing or installing new gas appliances, always check your builder uses a suitably qualified Gas Safe registered engineer. Ensure existing or new gas pipework is not damaged during the works.



## Roofing work, loft conversions, Velux/roof windows

During roofing work ensure chimneys and flues are not removed, obstructed, blocked or damaged. When installing roof windows or openings, ensure the required distances from the chimney or flue are maintained in line with the relevant standards and manufacturer's instructions.

