



# Carbon Monoxide and Fuel Combustion Products

## Hazard information for landlords

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and extremely toxic gas that stops blood from carrying oxygen and can be fatal at high concentrations, causing unconsciousness and even death.

At low concentrations, carbon monoxide can cause a range of symptoms including headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, confusion and fatigue. It can also impair foetal development.

### Causes

The main source of carbon monoxide inside dwellings is the incomplete combustion of all fuels containing carbon, including gas, oil and solid fuels.

Open flued appliances can discharge combustion gases back into rooms through extractor fans and more.

Gas cookers can discharge combustion gases into the dwelling when there is a lack of appropriate or appropriately sited extract ventilation.

### Relevant Legislation

- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Regulations 2015
- The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998

### Legal obligations of the landlord

A carbon monoxide alarm wherever there is a solid fuel burning appliance such as an open fire, log burning stove etc.

To make sure gas appliances (including any flues) and installations are checked for safety at least every 12 months. The checks must be carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer and a certificate should be issued on completion.

## Recommendations

- The installation of a Carbon Monoxide alarm 1 – 3 metres horizontal distance from the gas appliance.
- Adequately sited and maintained extract ventilation sited above gas cooking facilities.
- Make sure all flues are well maintained and regularly cleaned.

## Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning

- Headaches
- Breathlessness
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Collapse
- Loss of consciousness
- Tiredness
- Drowsiness
- Vomiting
- Pains in the chest
- Stomach pains
- Erratic behaviour
- Visual problems

If you're experiencing any of the possible symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, seek urgent medical advice from either your GP or an A&E department right away and ask for a blood and/or breath test to confirm the presence of carbon monoxide.

To contact the team about Carbon Monoxide in your home, email: [pshousing@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:pshousing@dacorum.gov.uk) or telephone: **01442 228000** and ask for **Private Sector Housing** when prompted.