



Gas leaks and carbon monoxide

A gas leak can cause fire or explosion, and carbon monoxide is an invisible, odourless gas that can poison a household without warning. This page helps you prevent both, spot the signs and act fast.

CHECKLIST

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| ☐ Carbon monoxide alarm for each room with a fuel burning appliance | ☐ Location of the gas main tap, marked and known to all |
| ☐ Spare batteries for alarms | ☐ Gas emergency number saved in phones |

BEFORE

- Fit a carbon monoxide alarm in each room with a gas, oil, coal or wood burning appliance.
- Test alarm batteries regularly and replace alarms as the maker advises.
- Have gas cookers, heaters and boilers installed and serviced by a qualified engineer.
- Keep rooms ventilated and chimneys and flues clean.
- Never use barbecues, charcoal or camping stoves indoors.
- Never run a car or generator in a garage or enclosed space.

DURING

- If you smell gas, open doors and windows straight away.
- Turn off the gas at the main tap if it is safe to do so.
- Do not smoke, light matches, use a phone or touch electrical switches.
- Get everyone out, then call the gas emergency line from outside.
- Suspect carbon monoxide? Switch off the appliance if safe and go outside.
- Watch for headache, dizziness, nausea, tiredness, confusion and breathlessness.
- Call an ambulance for breathing trouble, confusion or collapse; do not drive yourself.

AFTER

- Wait outside for the engineer and stay out until told it is safe.
- Get medical advice promptly if anyone felt unwell.
- Tell medical staff you may have been exposed to gas or carbon monoxide.

IN THE UAE

No UAE official gas leak guidance was fetched; for fire or explosion risk call Civil Defence on 997.

MY NOTES

Sources: Croydon Council (UK local government), If you smell gas (<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/information-council-tenants/housing-maintenance-and-safety/housing-maintenance-and-safety/home-safety-services/if-you-smell-gas>); NHS (UK), Carbon monoxide poisoning (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/carbon-monoxide-poisoning/>); CDC, About Carbon Monoxide Poisoning (<https://www.cdc.gov/carbon-monoxide/about/index.html>); UAE Government Portal (u.ae), Handling emergencies (<https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/handling-emergencies>)
General guidance in our own words. Always follow your local authorities.