



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmai

# Reduce the risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in your home

Carbon Monoxide  
is a highly poisonous gas  
that has no smell, colour or taste.

It can be released to dangerous levels by any appliance  
or heating system that burns oil, gas or solid fuel  
if they are not properly installed, maintained or where  
adequate ventilation has not been provided.





**Carbon Monoxide awareness is something we all need to be continually thinking about.**

### **What is Carbon Monoxide?**

Carbon Monoxide is a highly poisonous gas that has no smell, colour or taste. It can be released to dangerous levels by any appliance or heating system that burns oil, gas or solid fuel if they are not properly installed, maintained or where adequate ventilation has not been provided.

These appliances include:

- Wood or multi-fuel burning stoves
- Central heating boilers
- Open fires
- Gas cookers
- Oil/Solid fuel cookers
- Flues

### **Have you installed a wood or multi-fuel burning stove in your home?**

In most instances Building Control approval is required for any heating appliance being installed in dwellings. This includes wood or multi-fuel burning stoves.

Please contact Fermanagh & Omagh District Council's Building Control Department on 0300 303 1777 or visit [www.fermanaghomagh.com](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com) for further information or to request an application form.

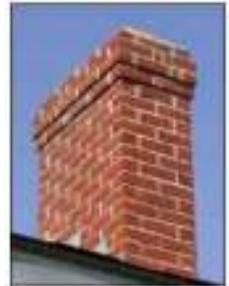
If you have installed a wood or multi-fuel burning stove without Building Control approval you can apply to 'regularise' this work and Building Control Officers will carry out inspections.

**Some 'do-it-yourself' installations can unknowingly create dangerous conditions putting you and your family at risk.**

## How do I reduce the risk of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

Follow these simple rules to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Ensure that all fuel-burning appliances are properly installed and regularly serviced, at least every year, by a qualified and registered installer. Please see our 'Useful contacts' section for further information.
- Make sure that chimneys or flues are clean and not obstructed. They should be routinely cleaned and checked at least once a year. Please see our 'Useful contacts' section for more details.
- If you are opening a fireplace which has been unused for a period of time check for ventilation caps. These caps must not be in place if the chimney is to be brought back into use as they will not allow the safe removal of smoke and carbon monoxide. A registered chimney sweep and/or qualified heating appliance installer will recognise and advise on any modifications which may be needed to your chimney.
- Ensure that there is adequate ventilation in any room or setting where appliances such as wood or multi-fuel stoves or gas fires are used or where Carbon Monoxide might be produced and accumulate e.g. garages, car ports
- Fit a carbon monoxide alarm that meets British or European Standards. An alarm should be fitted in every room which has a fuel burning appliance. It is also advised that an alarm be fitted close to bedroom areas in the house.
- If moving house, either to your own or a rented property, ensure that the above checks have been carried out. Don't forget to check holiday homes or caravans too.
- Do not use unventilated appliances, for example, portable gas heaters, in small closed rooms.



## What are the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

If you have unexplained symptoms such as:

- Headaches
- Chest pains
- Muscular weakness
- Sickness, diarrhea or stomach pains
- Sudden dizziness on standing up
- General lethargy

**Be very suspicious and seek medical advice.**

## What should I do if my Carbon Monoxide alarm activates or I suspect the presence of Carbon Monoxide?

Remember **TASK**. Health and Safety Executive NI and NI Fire and Rescue Service advice:-

- T** Turn *off* or extinguish all fuel burning appliances if safe to do so.
- A** Air- Open all doors and windows to increase ventilation in the property and go outside and stay out in clean fresh air.
- S** Seek medical assistance if you feel unwell. Go to your GP or nearest Accident and Emergency. For medical emergencies call 999 and ask for an ambulance.
- K** Keep all appliances turned *off* until checked by a qualified registered installer or engineer.

**For a Carbon Monoxide emergency, where the occupants' lives are at risk, call 999 and ask for an ambulance and the Fire & Rescue Service.**

**In this instance Get out, Stay out and get the Fire and Rescue Service out.**

### Useful contacts

Always ensure you use a qualified installer or registered chimney sweep:

#### Gas Safe Register (gas)

Tel: 0800 408 5500 [www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk)

#### Northern Ireland Association of Chimney Sweeps (all fuels)

[www.niacs.co.uk](http://www.niacs.co.uk)

#### OFTEC (oil)

Tel: 0845 658 5080 [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org)

If you have installed a wood or multi-fuel burning stove without Building Control approval or plan to install a stove in the future contact:

#### Fermanagh & Omagh District Council's Building Control Department

Tel: 0300 303 1777 [www.fermanaghomagh.com](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com)