

Gas safety

This factsheet looks at some of the steps you and your landlord should take when it comes to gas safety in your home.

Both landlords and tenants have legal responsibilities when it comes to gas safety. This applies in council, housing association and private tenancies.

Danger signs

Gas appliance danger signs include:

- sooty marks
- yellow or orange flames instead of blue
- pilot light that keeps going out
- smell of sulphur or rotten eggs
- excessive condensation on windows

Responsibility for safety checks

Landlords must ensure that gas safety checks are carried out every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered engineer. The engineer must have a Gas Safe ID card. You can check if they are registered at www.gassaferegister.co.uk

If you live in a house or flat that is occupied by more than two households (a house in multiple occupation (HMO)), your landlord may have other gas safety responsibilities.

If any of the gas appliances in your home belong to you, you can arrange for them to be checked as well. Some people are entitled to free gas safety checks - contact your energy supplier for details.

What will be checked

The gas safety check is to ensure that the gas supply pipework, gas appliances and flues are all working safely

Your landlord must get a Gas Safe engineer to carry out any repairs. A Gas Safe engineer can disconnect faulty appliances. You must not use any gas appliances that you know or suspect to be unsafe.

Gas safety certificate

Your landlord must give you a copy of the latest gas safety certificate:

- before you move in if you are a new tenant, or
- within 28 days of the last check

Access to your home

You must allow the gas engineer into your home to carry out safety checks and any repair work. Your landlord should give you reasonable notice (usually at least 24 hours), unless it's an emergency.

Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide gas is known as the 'silent killer' because it is invisible, odourless, poisonous and can kill quickly. It can be produced if:

- gas appliances are not working properly
- flues or chimneys become blocked

Carbon monoxide detectors alert you to the presence of carbon monoxide in the air by flashing a light and sounding an alarm.

If you are a private tenant, your landlord must supply a carbon monoxide alarm for each room containing a solid fuel appliance. For more information see the factsheet 'Private tenants: smoke and carbon monoxide alarms' in the [Repairs & safety section](#).

If your landlord does not have to provide a carbon monoxide alarm you can buy one yourself from a DIY shop.

Enforcing gas safety

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is responsible for enforcing gas safety. Get in touch with the HSE if your landlord:

- has not provided you with a valid gas safety certificate
- refuses to let you see records of safety checks, or
- fails to do any work if required

Failure to follow gas safety requirements is a criminal offence. You can contact the HSE Gas Safety Advice Line on **0800 300 363**.

Unfit homes

Your landlord may have to make sure your home is fit to live in. If any gas appliances or installations are faulty, your home could be unfit. See the factsheet 'Is your home fit to live in?' in the [Repairs & safety section](#) for more information.

Further advice

You can get further advice from england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice, local Shelter advice service or local Citizens Advice. If you have nowhere to sleep tonight, are at risk of harm or losing your home within the next 2 months, call Shelter Helpline on **0808 800 4444** for advice and information on your options.*

*Calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks.



Note
Information contained in this factsheet is correct at the time of publication. Please check details before use.