

# Home Truths from CORGI

The rules around gas have changed to protect you and your family further



There are two important changes in regulations which affect all homeowners with gas appliances. These are designed to protect you further. If you are having a gas appliance installed or replaced, this is how the new rules affect you:

- you will now receive a safety certificate (called a Declaration of Safety) from CORGI after a gas appliance has been installed. Please keep this safe as it proves the appliance has been installed by a professional. It will also form an essential part of the Home Information Pack, to be a legal requirement in England and Wales from 2007<sup>1</sup>.
- you may also need to inform your Local Authority Building Control department of the work<sup>2</sup>. This will have to be inspected and will cost up to £300. However, by using a CORGI registered installer, Local Building Control will be notified directly which should offer you significant savings.

**Home Truth:** *There are now over 48,000 registered CORGI Gas Installers in the UK, which means you never need to choose an illegal gas worker.*



### **CORGI: The people who bring you peace of mind**

CORGI stands for the 'Council for Registered Gas Installers'. We are charged by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE<sup>3</sup>) to maintain a register of competent gas installers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Any business carrying out gas related work in relevant premises must be registered with CORGI by law.

You can check if a gas installer is registered with us by asking to see their CORGI ID

card. This proves they are technically competent and comply with safety standards. They must also update their skills and safety knowledge regularly and are subject to work inspections carried out by CORGI.

CORGI exists to ensure your gas work is carried out competently and safely. We're here to bring you peace of mind.

**Home Truth:** *A significant amount of work carried out by illegal gas workers has been found to have serious safety defects.*

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the introduction of the Home Information Pack visit [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk).

For further information on the Single Survey in Scotland visit [www.scotland.gov](http://www.scotland.gov).

<sup>2</sup> Applies to England and Wales only, ask your CORGI Registered Installer if Building Regulations is relevant to your work.

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland - Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) Isle of Man - Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate (HSWI)



A healthy flame - crisp, vibrant and blue



A yellow or orange flame may mean carbon monoxide is present

### Don't go cheap on gas safety. You could end up paying more

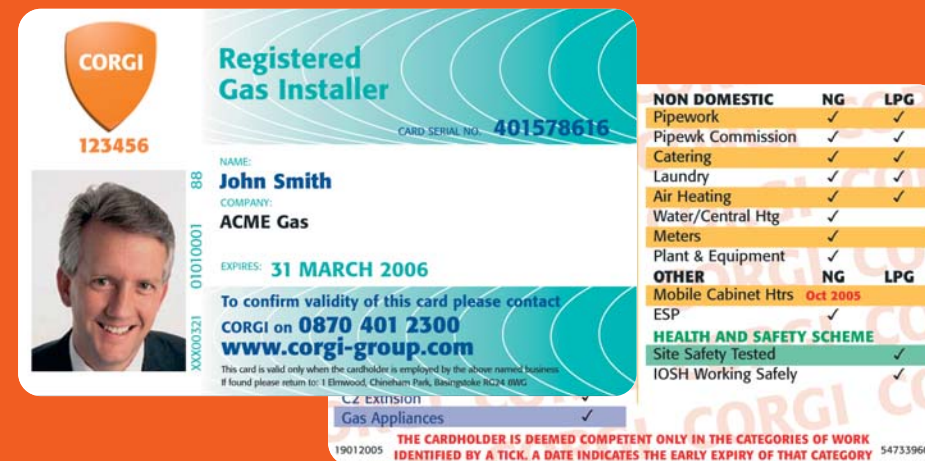
It simply isn't worth using an illegal gas installer. They are breaking the law and worse still, you could be putting the lives of your loved ones at risk.

Without CORGI, you have no way of knowing whether someone is competent to undertake gas work. Nor can you be completely sure the work has been carried out safely. And that's dangerous. Because when gas is used correctly and treated with respect, it's safe and economical. But you must leave it to the experts.

### Here are four simple rules for safe gas use:

1. Always use a CORGI registered gas installer – ask to see their ID card
2. Make sure your appliances are checked for safety every year
3. Be aware of the following danger signs and stop using the appliance if you spot them:
  - sooting or stain marks on or around the appliance
  - a yellow or orange lazy flame where they are normally crisp and blue
  - condensation in the room where the appliance is installed
4. Don't DIY with gas

**Home Truth:** *Around 30 deaths a year – and hundreds of serious injuries – are caused by carbon monoxide poisoning due to faulty gas appliances.*



### If you don't see this card, don't let them in

Gas appliances that are properly installed, ventilated and serviced will serve you for years. But before you allow anyone into your property to carry out gas related work, insist on seeing their CORGI ID card.

- Check the photo matches
- Make sure the card hasn't expired
- Does this business name match up?
- Look for the CORGI registered installer logo and number
- Check the appliances and work the installer is competent to undertake

If you have any concerns, call CORGI to confirm your installer's registration.

**Home truth:** *By using a CORGI registered installer, you know that the person working on your gas appliances has current qualifications, up-to-date training and their work is regularly inspected by CORGI. If you choose an illegal gas worker, how will you know if they are safe?*

## Your guide to gas safety

Providing you remember these few simple facts about gas and gas appliances, you can safely enjoy this versatile, efficient and economic fuel for ever.

### Recognise the silent killer

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas produced when gas appliances are not working properly. It has no colour, taste or smell. Symptoms of CO poisoning are very much like flu or a viral infection – namely, drowsiness, weakness, headaches, nausea and chest pains. Exposure to low levels of CO can cause brain damage and death.

If anyone experiences these symptoms in your house while using a gas appliance, stop using it and consult a doctor.

You can also fit CO detectors that will alert you if the gas is present. Detectors are no substitute for having safe appliances, but can provide a valuable warning system. CORGI only recommends using audible CO detectors with a BSI Kitemark, as opposed to the smaller, cheaper adhesive patch tests which can be inaccurate.

**Home Truth:** *Almost 50% of people don't know what the warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are. Please don't be one of them.*

### Annual checks save lives

It is important that gas appliances are correctly installed and checked annually to ensure no deadly CO is being produced. Some appliances have a flue, a passage-way that draws fumes and exhausts them harmlessly outside. It is vital to ensure this is not blocked by birds' nests, soot, builders' rubble and even spider webs.

All gas appliances need air to work safely. Some appliances need to have air vents installed to enable them to operate safely. Air vents should never be blocked.



### Landlords' legal responsibilities

If you live in rented accommodation, your landlord is obliged to give you written proof that every gas appliance has been safety checked by a CORGI registered installer. Don't be afraid to ask for it. It's the law.

### Like to DIY? Never with gas

DIY can be great fun and a great way to save money. But never DIY with gas. You could be breaking the law, you could be endangering lives and you could have enforcement action taken out against you. It's not worth it.

### Contact CORGI

For your nearest CORGI registered installer or for more information on the new rules, call CORGI on **0870 401 2300** or visit **[www.corgi-group.com](http://www.corgi-group.com)**

**Home Truth:** *Carbon monoxide has no colour, taste or smell – yet nearly 75% of homes in the UK don't have special CO detectors fitted.*

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