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For more information and advice please contact:



www.cornwall.gov.uk/responsiblelandlords

This leaflet has been prepared by Private Sector Housing, Planning and Enterprise Service, Cornwall Council.

Telephone: **0300 1234 151**
Email: **psh@cornwall.gov.uk**

If you want help or advice on how to produce information in alternative formats or interpreter services please phone **01872 322594** or email **equality@cornwall.gov.uk**.

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

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Treyew Road
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Carbon monoxide

A bite size guide for tenants advising how to help keep your home safe from carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gas, oil, wood and coal. When CO enters the body, it prevents the blood from bringing oxygen to cells, tissues and organs.

If your property has one of these appliances your landlord should:

- ensure that it is serviced and maintained by a competent person
- chimneys are swept regularly.
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm
- Do not block up any of the air vents in a room

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

- headaches or dizziness
- breathlessness
- nausea
- loss of consciousness
- tiredness
- pains in the chest or stomach
- erratic behaviour
- visual problems

If you experience any of the above symptoms and believe that you may have been exposed to carbon monoxide, you should seek urgent medical advice from either your GP or an A&E department.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, you must

- Evacuate the building
- Let your landlord know that you believe there is a problem.
- Open all doors and windows to ventilate the property
- Do not turn on/off any electrical switches
- Do not turn a gas supply back on until a leak has been dealt with by a competent person.
- Extinguish all naked flames, do not smoke or strike matches etc.



TOP TIP!

Help us to keep you safe. Encourage your landlord to join the Cornwall Responsible Landlord Scheme, an online resource which provides guidance and advice including information gas safety and carbon monoxide safety.

www.cornwall.gov.uk/responsiblelandlords

New laws for private sector landlords

The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (England) Regulations came into effect on 1st October 2015 making it compulsory for all landlords to fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitors in rented homes.

The carbon monoxide detector is required in every room where there is a solid fuel appliance. This would include a wood burner, an open fire, etc.

It is not a legal requirement to fit a detector where there is only a gas appliance but we always recommend that landlords do this.

Landlords are required to demonstrate to tenants that all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working at the commencement of the tenancy.

The landlord must ensure that you have signed to say that you have been shown that all the alarms work, along with the date that this was done. It is likely that this will be included in your tenancy agreement or inventory.