

# Carbon Monoxide Detection

**Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas with no taste, no colour and no smell and is often referred to as the silent killer. It is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon based fuels such as gas, oil and solid fuels including wood.**

Fuel gas is safe to use. It is only when gas does not burn properly, as with other fuels such as coal, wood or oil, that excess CO is produced, which is poisonous. When CO gets into the body, it prevents the blood from bringing oxygen to cells, tissues, and organs. You can't see it, taste it or smell it but CO can kill quickly without warning.

Every year about 20-30 people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with domestic gas appliances, many others suffer ill health, due mainly to these appliances not having been properly installed or maintained. Making sure all potential carbon monoxide sources are properly vented and equipment is in good working condition, along with installing a CO detector, could become a matter of life and death.

We can be particularly at risk from CO poisoning when we are asleep, resting or working, because we may not be aware of early CO symptoms until it is too late. Having an audible CO detector could alert you and save life.

## WHY DO YOU NEED CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS?

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GSIUR) are placed on domestic and commercial premises owners to maintain gas appliances. Appliances must be checked for safety at least once in any 12-month period by a CORGI registered installer. Owner occupied and tenanted domestic premises are both subject to specific gas safety legislation.

To prevent any harm from carbon monoxide and to comply with British Standard BS7860: 1996, a CO detector should be fitted in every room where there is a gas or solid fuel appliance to provide an alarm to alert the householder to its presence. Carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced every five years from the date of manufacture in order to upgrade to more advanced carbon monoxide sensing technologies and new innovative safety features.

## BENEFITS OF THE SERVICE

We will install, check and service the CO detectors in line with the manufacturer's instruction. We can put together a programme for the installation of CO alarms into your properties or provide it as part of a package. All CO detectors supplied by elecheck<sup>^</sup> comply with European Standard BS EN 50291:2001, and carry a British approval mark – Kitemark or an European approval mark — CE Mark.

elecheck<sup>^</sup> recommends testing carbon monoxide alarms monthly to ensure they are in proper working order and that batteries are still fresh. It is also important to have home appliances checked annually by a CORGI-qualified technician.

## WHY USE ELECHECK?

- ✓ A 'one stop shop' for all your compliance requirements
- ✓ A nationwide company with punctual, polite and efficient 'local' engineers
- ✓ Happy to work outside of 'normal' hours to ensure minimum disruption to business
- ✓ 99% of our clients would recommend us to others\*
- ✓ We give advice in straightforward everyday language – without all the jargon
- ✓ Registered, approved and backed by leading industry bodies

\* Customer satisfaction survey 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

These notes have been produced as guidance only and are not definitive or intended for specific reference. Please refer to the following for more information.

British Standards BS EN 50291: 2001  
 Figures taken from Health and Safety Executive

Pictures 1 - The symptoms are similar to those of viral cold infections. 2 - Poorly maintained gas appliances are one of the main causes. 3, 4 & 5 - Examples of carbon monoxide alarms.



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5