

Contacts

A large print copy of this document is available on request.

It will also be made available in braille and on audio tape upon request.

This document will be made available upon request in the following languages: Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic.

ARABIC:

سوف يتم تقديم هذا المستند عند الطلب في اللغات التالية: الإنجليزية، والأردنية، والهندية، والكنيتونية، والنيجالية والعربية

URDU:

گزارش کرنے پر یہ دستاویز درج ذیل زبانوں میں فراہم کرائی جائے گی: بنگالی، اردو، ہندی، کوشٹولیز، پنجابی، عربی

HINDE:

अनुपलब्ध करने पर यह अभिलेख निम्न भाषाओं में उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी: बंगाली, उर्दू, हिंदी, कॅन्टोनीज़, पंजाबी, अरबी।

PUNJABI:

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਉੱਤੇ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ: ਬੰਗਾਲੀ, ਉਰਦੂ, ਕੈਨਟੋਨੀਜ਼, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਅਰਬੀ।

CANTONESE:

如果有要求，必須提供本報的以下語言的版本：孟加拉語、烏爾都語、北印度語、廣東話、旁遮普語和印地安語。

BENGALE:

অনুরোধসম্পাদকে এই সচিটি নিম্নলিখিত ভাষায় পাওয়া যাবে: বাংলা, উর্দু, হিন্দি, ক্যান্টোনিজ, পাঞ্জাবি, আরবি।

If you feel unwell, and your symptoms could be related to CARBON MONOXIDE, you should immediately go to the Accident and Emergency Department at your nearest hospital or dial 999.

Help us to help you

Keep safe in your home

For Further Advice on Safety, Phone the **District of Easington** on **0191 527 0501** and ask for Mechanical Services - extension **2512** or **2577**.



Solid Fuel Appliances Essential Information

“Providing excellent services which focus on our customers”



District of **easington**.

Council Offices
Seaside Lane
Easington
County Durham
SR8 3TN
Telephone: 0191 527 0501
www.easington.com



District of **easington**.

Get them checked



Keep them safe

All the appliances you have in your home serve you more reliably, efficiently and, most importantly, safely if they are installed and serviced correctly. Your Solid Fuel appliances are no exception. Always follow these few simple guidelines to ensure safe and efficient operation.



The Problem

Every year some 30 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by solid fuel appliances and flues that have not been properly installed or maintained. When fossil fuel (eg coal, coke, wood, oil etc) does not burn properly, excess carbon monoxide is produced, which is poisonous.

You can't see it. You can't taste it. You can't even smell it. But carbon monoxide can kill without warning in just a matter of hours. You are particularly vulnerable when you are asleep.

The early symptoms of poisoning include tiredness, drowsiness, headache, pains in the chest and stomach pains.

You are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if:

- You appliance was poorly installed;
- You appliance is not working properly;
- Your appliance has not been checked for safety or maintained regularly;
- There is not enough fresh air in the room;
- Your chimney or flue gets blocked up;
- You allow unqualified people to install or maintain your appliance;
- You are using the wrong fuel



The Answers

VENTILATION

Air is vital: Heating appliances whatever fuel they burn need to be able to "breathe" in order to function efficiently and safely. To "breathe" they need a constant and sufficient flow of air, so the room must not be completely air tight. If your home has draught-proofing or double glazing fitted you may need vents or airbricks in an exterior wall of the room.

If vents or air-bricks are already there always ensure they are not blocked or covered.

FLUE CLEANING

To enable your appliance to "breathe" efficiently it is absolutely essential that you do not allow soot or ash to build up where it can hinder or prevent the free flow of smoke and other products of combustion.

Flueways at the back of the boiler should be cleaned once a week. But always remember to let the fire go out and allow ashes to cool before cleaning.

The throat plates at the top of the roomheater should be removed and cleaned monthly.

Empty and check the ash can every day.

Have your chimney swept at least once every year, preferably before each winter and after any prolonged period when the appliance has not been in use.

Contact a recommended chimney sweep.

He should preferably be a member of The National Association of Chimney Sweeps, an association of true professionals in the field. Check in Yellow Pages or contact the Solid Fuel Association for a list of members in your area.

Remember

- Proper ventilation
- Regular cleaning and sweeping
- Use the right fuel
- Never leave an open fire unattended without a fireguard
- Always use a securely fitted fireguard when children are in the house.

If, however your appliance begins to burn slowly, goes out frequently or if you smell or suspect fumes you must:

- Open doors and windows.
- Allow the fire to burn itself out.
- Do not stay in the room any longer than is necessary.
- Do not attempt to re-kindle the appliance until it has been checked by a professional.
- Contact your Local Heating Engineer.

Always follow these simple guidelines to ensure the safe and efficient operation of your appliance. If you have any problems contact your landlord, your local Approved Coal merchant or The Solid Fuel Association.



The law

There is a specific legislation covering the installation and maintenance of **gas appliances**. As yet there is no similar, specific legislation for solid fuel appliances, but the Government Agency which is responsible i.e. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) takes the view that section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 can be applied. The question as to whether there should be specific, additional legislation to cover domestic appliances using fuels other than gas is currently under review. The HSE's view is that the maintenance of solid fuel appliances forms part of the landlord's undertaking, that the sweeping of chimney flues cannot be delegated to tenants, and that this requirement for maintenance can be **enforced** under section 3 (1) of the Act.

It is also HSE's view that carbon monoxide poisonings caused by heating appliances in rented accommodation which result in death or in the occupier being taken to hospital for treatment are reportable incidents under the Reporting of Injuries Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995, and that when these occur they should be reported to the appropriate enforcing Authority.

Remember, if **you** own the appliance, **you** are responsible for it's maintenance.

SOLID FUEL ASSOCIATION

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