



Stay Safe

Carbon Monoxide (CO)
in your holiday caravan,
holiday lodge or residential
park home can be fatal

Advice from
ncc



What is Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning?

Carbon Monoxide is poisonous and results from the incomplete combustion of gas and fossil fuels. CO poisoning happens when you breathe Carbon Monoxide, even at very low levels.

Even though the appliances inside your holiday caravan/lodge or residential park home may all be electric, if you bring a smouldering or lit, portable BBQ or gas stove inside for whatever reason, it can give off fumes that might lead to CO poisoning.

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms are like having flu, but can lead to death. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness.

The young and the old are at particular risk. You will not know if you are being exposed to Carbon Monoxide as it is colourless, odourless and tasteless.

The symptoms are often overlooked and the only sure means of diagnosis is a blood test.

Five steps you can take to 'stay safe'

If the holiday caravan/holiday lodge or residential park home displays an NCC Approved Manufacturer badge, you can be reassured that it has been designed with safety in mind.



However, it is essential that you take simple steps to ensure both your own and others' safety:

1. Get your gas appliances checked annually

All gas appliances should be serviced annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer to keep them working safely and efficiently. This will reduce both the chance of exposure to Carbon Monoxide and running costs.

NB: The law requires an annual gas appliance check to be done if you let out accommodation; for example, if holidaymakers stay in your holiday caravan or holiday lodge.

2. Don't block the ventilation

Gas-burning appliances need a constant supply of air in order for complete combustion to occur and to keep you safe.

Suitable ventilation is designed into the holiday caravan/holiday lodge or residential park home to ensure your safety. If you block that ventilation, it could lead to Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

Stay safe: never block the ventilation!

3. Use a Gas Safe registered engineer; never do-it-yourself

Under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, as amended, it is illegal for someone who isn't on the gas register, to undertake work on gas appliances. Always use a Gas Safe registered engineer, qualified either in natural gas and/or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

- Make sure that they have the appropriate registration for the gas used in your appliances
- Check the engineer is qualified for the work you need doing - you can find this information on the back of their ID card
- Ask for the gas safety record for the work carried out

The park manager may be able to recommend a suitable Gas Safe registered engineer. Alternatively to find a Gas Safe registered engineer visit www.gassaferegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500.

Make sure your engineer is Gas Safe registered. Always ask to see the Gas Safe ID card.

4. Fit an audible Carbon Monoxide alarm

Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms will provide a further safeguard. NCC member manufacturers now fit CO alarms on all new holiday caravans/holiday lodges and park homes

- gas and electric.

- There should be two: one in the hall way near bedrooms and the other in the main living area
- Test them at least once a month and only remove the batteries when it is time to replace them with new ones
- If not already fitted, we recommend you buy alarms that comply with BS EN 50291 and follow the fitting instructions carefully
- Check and follow the maintenance requirements; Carbon Monoxide alarms usually need replacing about every five years
- There is no substitute for properly functioning, **audible** alarms. Do not be tempted to fit the cheaper 'black spot' detectors as they won't sound an alarm and alert you to potential danger

The laws relating to the installation and maintenance of CO alarms are different depending on where you are in the UK. Contact the NCC for further details.

5. Know the danger signs to look out for

You cannot see, taste or smell Carbon Monoxide, but you can look out for signs.

Your gas appliance should burn with a crisp blue flame. If it burns with lazy yellow or orange flames, or you notice sooting or staining, you could be at risk.

If you spot the danger signs, get it checked out by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

! IF THE ALARM GOES OFF:

- Make sure everyone gets out quickly
- Turn off the gas at the meter or cylinder valve
- Get medical attention for anyone feeling unwell
- Immediately call the gas emergency number for your area
- Tell the park manager immediately
- Get the gas appliances checked
- Do not re-enter until you have been told it is safe to do so

NCC member manufacturers now fit CO alarms on all new holiday caravans, holiday lodges and residential park homes as standard.

For more information on carbon monoxide, visit gassaferegister.co.uk



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