

# STAY SAFE IN YOUR STUDENT HOUSE

## BETTER GAS SAFE THAN SORRY

Gas safety may not be your top priority when you move into your student house, but knowing your rights when you rent could save your life.

Gas appliances that are badly fitted or poorly serviced can put you at risk from gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas. You can't see, taste it or smell it but it can kill quickly with no warning.

Gas Safe Register is the UK's official list of legal and qualified gas engineers. Only a Gas Safe registered engineer should fit, fix or service gas appliances.

### Signs of a good night out? Or carbon monoxide poisoning?



### DID YOU KNOW?

Six Oxford university students narrowly escaped death when a carbon monoxide leak was discovered in their student house. Their carbon monoxide alarm warned them of the danger (source: *The Oxford Student*)

## BEFORE YOU MOVE IN

Your landlord has a legal responsibility for your safety. All gas appliances your landlord provides e.g. boilers, cookers, hobs and fires must be correctly maintained and a gas safety check carried out every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered engineer. By law your landlord must give you a copy of the Landlord's Gas Safety Record (also referred to as the Landlord's Gas Safety Certificate).

## DURING YOUR STAY

- Cooperate with your landlord and let a Gas Safe registered engineer in whenever a gas safety check or maintenance is required.
- Check the Gas Safe ID card of any gas engineer that comes to do work in your student accommodation. You can also check they are registered and view a photo of them on our website. Alternatively call us to check.
- Look out for warning signs that your gas appliances are not working correctly e.g. lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones or black marks or stains on or around the appliance.
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm. Get one marked with British Standard EN 50291.
- Remember the six main signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: **headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness**. These can easily be confused with the flu or a hangover! Seek medical help immediately.
- In an emergency call the gas emergency helpline on 0800 111 999.
- If your landlord refuses to properly service and safety check the appliances they have provided, ring the Health and Safety Executive on 0845 345 0055.