

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

### **All fossil fuels:**

Department of Trade and Industry leaflet  
*'Danger! Fires and Heaters need Air'* available by  
telephoning 0870 1502 500.

**Solid Fuel – Coal and smokeless fuel:** Solid Fuel  
Association FREEPHONE 0800 600 000  
Northern Ireland Coal Advisory Service Hotline  
08457 125300

### **Gas:**

Health and Safety Executive leaflet *'Gas Appliances  
Get Them Checked, Keep Them Safe'* available by  
telephoning 01787 881165

Council for Registered Gas Installers (CORGI)  
01256 372300

### **Oil:**

Oil Firing Technical Association for the Petroleum  
Industry (OFTEC) 01737 373311  
(OFTEC administer the Oil Firing Technicians'  
registration scheme)

### **For advice on chimney repairs, lining, re-lining:**

Look for Chimney Engineers in your local business  
directory or contact National Association of Chimney  
Engineers FREEPHONE 0800 092 4019

### **For chimney sweeping advice on oil, gas, wood, coal and smokeless fuel chimneys:**

Look for Chimney Sweeps in your local business  
directory or contact National Association of Chimney  
Sweeps FREEPHONE 0800 833464

Northern Ireland Association of Chimney Sweeps  
028 9039 1121

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Further copies of this leaflet are available from: DTLR, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire  
LS23 7NB. Tel: 0870 1226 236 or Fax: 0870 1226 237. Textphone: 0870 1207 405.  
E-mail: dtlr@twoten.press.net

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**DANGER  
CARBON  
MONOXIDE  
POISONING**

**SOLID FUEL, WOOD AND  
OIL BURNING APPLIANCES  
GET THEM CHECKED,  
SWEEP YOUR CHIMNEYS  
AND BE SAFE**



## THE PROBLEM

Heating and cooking appliances fuelled by coal, smokeless fuels, wood and oil can be just as likely as gas appliances to cause

carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning if they are

poorly installed, faulty

or incorrectly used. CO poisoning is mostly

caused by inadequate ventilation or a lack of

correct maintenance of appliances, flues and

chimneys. Some incidents are also due to incorrect

installation or deterioration of the structure of

the chimney. Poisonous CO gas is produced when

fuel does not burn properly. You can die

from CO poisoning, or your health can

be permanently damaged.

CO gas is odourless and tasteless, so

you won't know when it is present.

It can kill or maim without warning

in a matter of hours. You are

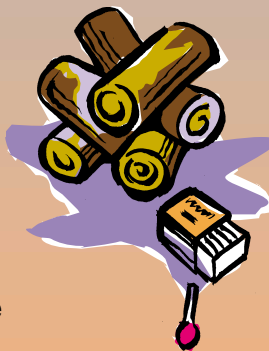
particularly vulnerable when you are

asleep. The elderly and the young are

particularly at risk.

The early symptoms of CO poisoning include – tiredness,

drowsiness, headache, dizziness, chest pains and nausea.



## MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT AT RISK OF CO POISONING

### DO...

- ✓ have your appliances installed and regularly checked and maintained for safety by a competent engineer;
- ✓ empty ash from a solid fuel appliance regularly, as the fire may not burn properly and this may also damage the appliance
- ✓ have your chimneys swept very regularly (at least once a year), even if you burn smokeless fuel;
- ✓ have your chimneys swept after any prolonged period when the appliance has not been in use;
- ✓ clean the appliance flueways monthly and have flue pipes connecting appliances to chimneys swept regularly, in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

### DO NOT...

- ✗ use the wrong fuel for your appliance;
- ✗ allow non competent people to install or maintain your appliance or sweep your chimney;
- ✗ block or obstruct ventilation grilles or air bricks which provide fixed air paths;
- ✗ block or obstruct flue outlets or chimneys;
- ✗ cover an appliance or block the hot air outlets;
- ✗ use your appliance if you think it or its chimney is not working properly. Signs to look out for are fumes or smoke in the house, slower than usual burning, evidence of sooting, difficulty in lighting, and staining around the appliance casing, **particularly if you are suffering from any of the symptoms mentioned.**