

# Useful Guide:

## Safety in your home

### Carbon Monoxide

During an average year about 50 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by fumes from faulty home heating appliances - more than three times that number end up in hospital.

Carbon monoxide is colourless, odourless and has no taste. It is a killer.

### What is it?

Carbon monoxide can be given off by any appliance, which burns a fossil fuel such as gas, coal or oil. It can enter your home if:

- your appliance is faulty.
- the room is not properly vented.
- the chimney or flue is blocked.

### What are the danger signs?

- gas flames that burn orange or yellow instead of blue.
- sooty stains on or just above appliances.
- solid fuel appliances that burn slowly or go out.

### What to do?

- have your appliances regularly serviced by a qualified engineer.
- ensure your home is properly ventilated – never block vents.
- make sure all chimneys and flues are regularly swept and kept clear.
- if you are buying a carbon monoxide detector look out for one that complies with BS EN 50291-1, but never rely entirely on these devices.

For further information contact the following organizations:

Fuel Type	Organisation
Solid Fuel (Coal & Wood)	Solid Fuel Association 0800 600 000
Oil	Oil Firing Technical Association for the Petroleum Industry (OFTEC) 01737 373311
Gas	Council for Registered Gas Installers (CORGI) 01256 372200 Gas Consumers' Council 0645 060708

## Communal areas - fire precautions

A number of our properties with communal entrances and stairs are fitted with door closers on the entrance or internal doors of the flats.

These are fitted as a fire precaution and are required by order of the Fire Service and the building regulations. It is important these are maintained in working order and are not disconnected or removed for any reason. These door closers are fitted for your safety and the safety of other residents in the block.

It is imperative that the communal stairs and hallways are kept clear at all times. Nothing should be placed in those areas which could cause an obstruction i.e., bicycles, refuse bags, etc.

Thank you for your help.

Please advise us if any closers in your flat become faulty.