



THE SILENT KILLER

Checking that your plumbing and heating is working well is **essential**, particularly if you have gas appliances as **Carbon Monoxide is highly dangerous**. You can't see it or smell it. In fact it is often called "the silent killer". You can protect your home from the dangers of this deadly gas by taking preventive measures and by learning to recognise the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Know the Danger Signs

Watch out for any of the warning signs that your appliance is not functioning properly:

- Staining, sooting or discolouration around the appliance
- Appliances that burn slowly, badly (orange or 'floppy' flames) or go out
- A yellow or orange flame where normally blue
- Condensation or dampness on walls and windows in the room once the appliance is lit
- A strange smell when the appliance is on
- Rusting or water streaking on appliance cabinet/vent/chimney
- Loose or disconnected vent/chimney connections or guards

If you detect any of these conditions, have a **professional service technician** fully examine the unit for safety.

One of the most important ongoing checks to make is for carbon monoxide (CO) escaping from gas appliances. As CO leaks can **kill** the gas safety watchdogs advises that you should install a **CO detector** with an audible alarm. They cost €25 to €35 and are available online and at DIY stores.

Other plumbing & heating checks...

Checking that your plumbing and heating is working well is essential, particularly if you are planning home improvements.

Many people underestimate the importance of these tasks, or leave all the decisions to trades-people. But doing a bit of research can save money and give you the best solution to your needs.

Need to know

Unfortunately, most people only worry about making sure their plumbing is in good working order on two occasions - when the heating packs up during the coldest spell...ever!, or when it leaks.

Calling out an emergency plumber or gas fitter is an expensive business, so make sure your system is up to date and in good working order.

It's also important from an energy efficiency point of view. If you are renting a property or planning to rent one out, you are legally obliged to carry out annual landlord's gas safety checks.

Annual checks



The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) appointed the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (RECI) as the new Gas Safety Supervisory Body in June of 2009.

Although you need to use a properly-qualified professional to service your boiler annually, you can carry out all the other checks yourself.

- Checking visible pipe work - look at ceilings for any signs of water leaks.
- Checking radiators are hot both at the top and bottom.
- If necessary, bleeding the radiators to eliminate any air in the system.
- Turning on the hot taps to check water is still coming through quickly.
- Making sure the taps aren't dripping and that they turn on and off easily.