

Nationwide Safety Campaign

Gas Safety Week 2016

IBB Builder pledged its support for Gas Safety Week 2016

Gas Safety Week is an annual safety week to raise awareness of gas safety and the importance of taking care of your gas appliances. It is co-ordinated by Gas Safe Register, the official list of gas engineers who are legally allowed to work on gas. This year Gas Safety Week was from the 19th to the 25th of September.

Badly fitted and poorly serviced gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. Every year thousands of people across the UK are diagnosed with carbon monoxide poisoning. It is a highly poisonous gas. You can't see it, taste it or smell it, but it can kill quickly with no warning.

If you're a Gas Safe registered engineer, help remind customers they should:

- Check their gas appliances every year. Gas appliances should be safety checked once a year and serviced regularly by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Tenants – make sure the landlord arranges this. Encourage your customers to set a reminder so they don't forget at www.staygassafe.co.uk.

- Check their engineer is Gas Safe registered. They can find and check an engineer at www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500.
- Check their engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. Make sure they are qualified for the work they need doing. They can find this information on the back of the card.
- Check for warning signs their appliances aren't working correctly e.g. lazy yellow or orange flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks on or around the appliance and too much condensation in the room.
- Check they know the six signs of carbon monoxide poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness.
- Check they have an audible carbon monoxide alarm. This will alert them if there is carbon monoxide in their home.

The sixth annual Gas Safety Week has seen organisations from across the UK working together, to encourage all gas consumers to arrange an annual gas safety check. The particular focus was on encouraging the public to reach out to their friends and family, be they elderly parents or a disabled neighbour, to ensure they are gas safe. Poorly maintained gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO)

poisoning. In the last year, at least 55,200 homes in the UK escaped deadly gas incidents such as these, thanks to engineers switching off dangerous appliances¹.

With 22 deaths and nearly 1,000 gas-related injuries in the last three years², it's vital that people make sure their gas appliances are safety checked every year, by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Anyone working on gas appliances while not being Gas Safe registered is working illegally.

By law, only Gas Safe registered engineers can work on gas appliances. There have been 22 deaths and nearly 1,000 gas-related injuries in the last three years³. An estimated quarter of a million illegal gas jobs are carried out every year by unregistered workers, who do not have the skills or the qualifications to do the job safely. It's therefore vital you make sure your engineer is registered with the official gas authority, Gas Safe Register.

Jonathan Samuel, managing director for Gas Safe Register, said: "It's great to have the support of IBB Builder this Gas Safety Week. By working together we can reach more people and help to reduce the number of dangerous gas appliances that could be lurking in the homes of the UK's 23 million gas consumers. We know from our own investigations that around one in six gas appliances



in the UK are unsafe⁴, meaning far too many people are victims of preventable gas related incidents.”

Reach out to those who need help keeping gas safe at home by following these top tips:

- Help them to sign up to a free annual gas safety check reminder service at www.staygassafe.co.uk. You could even sign up on their behalf, so the reminder is sent to you each year
- Make them aware of the signs that an unsafe gas appliance may cause:
- A lazy yellow flame instead of a crisp blue flame; soot or staining on or around the appliance; excess condensation in the room
- Carbon monoxide (CO) has no smell, taste or colour. The symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness, which can easily be mistaken for something else
- Make sure they know to ‘Trust the Triangle’ by asking to see their engineer’s Gas Safe ID card and checking it to make sure the engineer is covered to check or fit the appliance in question.

To find out about dangers in your area visit www.StayGasSafe.co.uk and to find a Gas Safe registered engineer call 0800 408 5500 or visit www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk.

The Gas Safety Week is the initiative supported by numerous organisations through out the UK to raise awareness of the danger of poorly maintained gas appliances, which can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. The sixth annual edition of the Gas Safety Week was officially launched at the Parliament on the 13th September with industry speakers from Gas Safe Register, the All-Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG), the Gas Industry Safety Group and the Katie Haines Trust. Gas Safety Week - coordinated by Gas Safe Regis-

Gas Safe Register surveyed 1,199 registered engineers between July 2015 and June 2016.

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ter - provides a platform for the gas industry, consumer organisations and individuals to focus all our communications about gas safety in one week, generating interest in the media and having a greater impact amongst the public. To attract people, the Gas Safe mascot was there for photos and introduction into this important matters.

Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas engineers who are qualified to work safely and legally on gas appliances. Registering with Gas Safe Register is a legal requirement for anyone carrying out gas work in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Guernsey.

For more information about registering, visit www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk, email register@gassaferegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5577.

How to find an engineer

Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas engineers who are qualified to work safely and legally on gas appliances. By law, all gas engineers must be on the Gas Safe Register. It replaced CORGI.

To make sure that gas appliances such as boilers, fires, ovens and hobs are fitted, fixed and serviced safely, only a Gas Safe registered engineer should carry out the work. If someone other than a Gas Safe registered engineer undertakes gas work, they are breaking the law and could put lives at risk. To prove they are legally permitted to work on gas, all Gas Safe registered engineers have an ID card with their own unique licence number and a photograph. Those in the building industry must always check that engineers contracted to undertake gas work are on the Gas Safe Register. To find or check an engineer go to www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500.

¹ Gas Safe Register surveyed 1,199 registered engineers between July 2015 and June 2016. Amongst surveyed gas engineers, 46% per cent said they had switched off a deadly appliance in the last year. There are 120,000 registered engineers, so 46% per cent equates to at least 55,200 homes avoiding a deadly gas incident.

² 22 people died from gas related incidents in the UK in the last three years and 949 non-fatalities were reported (Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridgas1.xls> statistics 2012-15)