

if you smell gas

If you smell gas inside your home

- turn off all appliances
- turn off the valve at the gas meter or LPG cylinder
- open doors and windows to ventilate the area
- leave electrical appliances or switches as they are – a flick of a switch could cause a spark and ignite the gas
- keep flames and cigarettes out of the room and away from the area
- contact your gas retailer or a licensed Craftsman Gasfitter immediately to check the installation (use a telephone away from the gas leak).

If you smell gas outside

- vacate the area then
- contact your gas retailer or,
- ring the gas emergency number on page 2 of the phone book
- keep flames, cigarettes, vehicles and electrical equipment away from the area.

If you think you have a problem with your gas installation or appliances, contact your gas retailer or local licensed Craftsman Gasfitter immediately.

Important Phone Numbers

Your Gas Retailer

Gas Emergency Number

Produced by

Gas Association of New Zealand

www.ganz.org.nz
tel: 04-472 9220

LPG Association

Tel: 04 473 9519

New Zealand Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board

www.pgdb.co.nz
PO Box 30-229 Lower Hutt
tel: 04 589-5310
fax: 04 589 5390

Energy Safety Service

www.ess.govt.nz
PO Box 1473 Wellington
tel: 04 472 0030
free fax: 0508 723 336
(0508 SAFE ENERGY)



working in partnership for your safety

April 2002



keeping safe with gas

keep this in a safe place

This leaflet contains important safety information for all gas consumers



gas

efficient, friendly energy

use it safely

Gas is a great fuel – it's instant, efficient and environmentally friendly. Like any form of energy, treat it with respect to prevent accidents.

Using gas safely is easy.
The **3 rules** are:

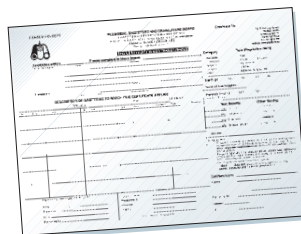
1 *Install safely*

2 *Maintain regularly*

3 *Ventilate well*

1 *Install safely*

Always get a licensed Craftsman Gasfitter to install your gas appliances or alter your gas supply. Ask to see their current licence. A licensed Craftsman Gasfitter will ensure that your gas appliance or installation is connected correctly, has



adequate ventilation, is appropriately flued and is in good working order.

Make sure your licensed Craftsman Gasfitter gives you a Gasfitting Certification Certificate to confirm the work was

completed safely and in accordance with the relevant regulations and manufacturer's instructions. A certificate is required for any new gas installations or alterations done in your home since March 1993.

If you haven't got a certificate, request one from the Craftsman Gasfitter or company that carried out the work. Alternatively, request a copy from the Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers Board for a \$10 fee. The Board can also tell you if your gasfitter has a current licence.

2 *Maintain regularly*

The homeowner is responsible for ensuring that gas appliances and installations are maintained to the standard certified by the licensed Craftsman Gasfitter when installed.

To ensure the safety and efficiency of your gas appliance or installation, get it checked regularly, preferably by a manufacturer's or distributor's service person:

- Appliances have different maintenance needs. Read your manual for specific maintenance information about your appliance or contact the agent to find out how often the appliance has to be maintained.
- Whenever a gasfitter is working in your home, get them to check that your gas appliances and installations are safe. (Note – many plumbers are also gasfitters.)

3 *Ventilate well*

If ventilation is restricted, or if a gas appliance is faulty or has not been maintained, it can produce carbon monoxide, a gas that can cause headaches and nausea, possibly leading to unconsciousness and even death.

Unflued gas appliances need to be used in well-ventilated areas with plenty of fresh air circulating.

In smaller rooms, such as bedrooms and bathrooms, the room should have permanent ventilation and new appliances must be specially flued to the outside of the house.

Flued gas appliances need to have the flue checked regularly.

Signs that an appliance is not working correctly or that the flue is blocked include:

- a yellow flame, rather than a blue (except for some 'flame effect' heaters that are designed to burn with a yellow flame).
- soot deposits in or around the appliance.
- an unpleasant, distinctive smell.

If you notice any of these signs, turn off the appliance and contact a licensed Craftsman Gasfitter immediately.

Portable gas heaters (unflued)

Portable gas heaters such as LPG cabinet heaters and unflued space heaters need special care. Always keep a window open when these heaters are in use. Never use them in a bathroom, bedroom or confined space.

Check the connections on your cabinet heater for leaking LPG. A good test is to spread a solution of water and dishwashing liquid on the connections each time you reconnect your heater after refilling your cylinder. If bubbles appear, or there are visible cracks on the flexible hose, LPG is leaking. Contact your LPG service agent immediately and do not use your heater until it has been checked.

Have your LPG cabinet heater serviced every 12 months.