

Safety in your home

Most of the accidents which occur in the home can be avoided if you follow these simple rules:

Electricity

- Switch off all appliances not in use.
- Make sure all plugs are wired correctly and that the whole flex, not just the leads, is gripped by the clamp in the plug.
- Ensure that the fuse in the plug is of the correct rating for the appliance it is connected to.
- Check flexes regularly, never use damaged ones and do not run them under carpets or rugs.

Circuit Breakers

Your home will normally have circuit breakers instead of fuses. Circuit breakers are switches which automatically switch off in circumstances when a fuse would have blown. Reset the switch to “on” after disconnecting the appliance which caused the problem. If the circuit breaker continues to switch off, contact the Association.

What to do if you smell gas

Step 1 – Call the National Gas Emergency Number immediately on Freephone 0800 111 999. This number is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and they will send out an engineer to keep you and the property safe.

Step 2 – Turn off all your gas appliances and, if possible, switch off the gas at the meter.

Step 3 – Open all your windows and doors

Step 4 – Do not use any electrical appliances. This includes switching your lights on or off

Step 5 – Do not smoke or use naked flames

Step 6 – If there is a smell of gas in the property please wait outside or with a neighbour.

What happens next?

Once the gas leak has been stopped you need to contact CRHA to let us know what the engineer has said needs to be done to make any appliances safe.

If work is required to CRHA appliances (e.g. boilers or fires) we will arrange for this to be done by a Gas Safe Registered engineer.

If work is required to appliances you own (e.g. cooker) you will need to arrange for this to be done by a Gas Safe Registered engineer and to supply CRHA with a copy of any certificate provided to confirm that the appliance is now safe.

Remember, if you smell gas, call the National Gas Emergency Number free on 0800 111 999.

What to do if your Carbon Monoxide Detector goes off

1. Turn off appliances, or other sources of combustion at once.
 2. Immediately get fresh air into the premises by opening doors and windows.
 3. Call CRHA so that we can arrange for a qualified technician to call and fix the problem before restarting appliances.
 4. If you have a gas appliance in your property that may have triggered the carbon monoxide detector call the National Gas Emergency Number immediately on Freephone 0800 111 999. This number is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and they will send out an engineer to keep you and the property safe.
 5. If anyone is experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headaches, dizziness, vomiting, call the emergency services and immediately move to a location that has fresh air.
 6. Do a head count to be sure all persons are accounted for.
 7. Do not re-enter the premises until it has been aired out and the problem corrected.
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Fire safety

- Keep matches away from children.
- Use a guard in front of an open fire when there are children or elderly people about.
- Never leave a chip pan unattended. If you have to leave the kitchen, turn off the heat.
- Do not hang clothes over or around fires, heaters or cookers.
- Do not prop open fire doors or interfere with their closing mechanisms.
- Do close all doors at night.

If a chip pan catches fire

- Turn off the heat, cover the pan with a damp cloth or lid to smother the flames.

If someone's clothing catches fire

- Lay the person on the floor, roll them up in a rug or curtain to put out the flames and call an ambulance.

If your home catches fire

- Close the door of the room where the fire started if you can.
 - Make sure everyone leaves the house.
 - Call the fire brigade.
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Frost Precautions

Before winter, check that all water pipes and tanks in the roof or outside are lagged, and report any that are not to us.

To avoid the possibility of freezing:

- Make sure taps are turned off at night.
- If you have central heating, leave radiator valves slightly open, or set the room thermostat to about 50° F (10° C) if you are out during the day.
- Report any dripping taps or running overflows immediately.

If, despite precautions, the pipes freeze or you have a burst:

- Turn off the main stopcock and switch the immersion heater off. (The main stopcock is usually under, or near, the kitchen sink. Make sure that you know where it is. If in doubt, ask us).
 - Turn all hot and cold taps on to drain as much water off as possible.
 - Report the problem to us as soon as possible.
 - If you are going away in the winter, please let us know in case of any emergencies.
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Falls

Sixty per cent of deaths from accidents in the home are the result of falls. You can help to guard against this type of accident by following a few simple rules.

- Do not polish under carpets or rugs.
- Make sure stairs and landings are well lit and that they are kept clear.
- Put guards at the top of the stairs and on upper floor windows if you have small children.
- Wipe up any liquids spilt on the kitchen floor immediately.
- Repair or cover any holes in your carpets or lino to avoid tripping. Make sure your stair carpets are securely fixed.