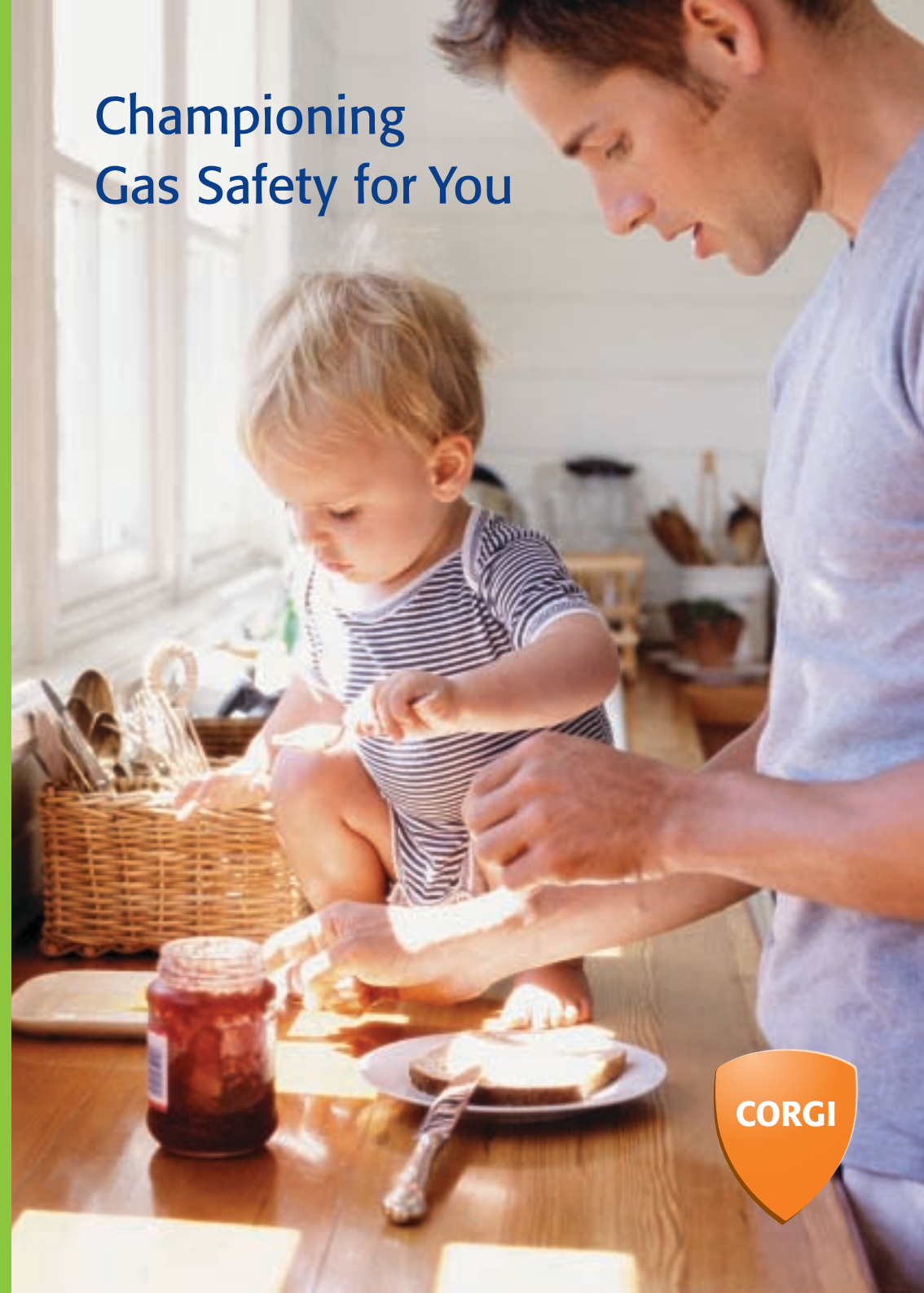


Championing Gas Safety for You



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CORGI stands for the 'Council for Registered Gas Installers'. It is the body charged by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE*) to maintain a register of competent gas installers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

IT IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR ANY BUSINESSES CARRYING OUT GAS RELATED WORK, IN RELEVANT PREMISES, TO BE REGISTERED WITH CORGI.



CORGI currently has over 47,000 gas installing businesses on the register, employing over 98,000 gas fitting operatives.

In order to protect the general public, CORGI Registered Installers are:

- Given an identification card which should be shown upon request
- Required to obtain competency certificates in areas of gas work they carry out
- Required to update their proof of competence regularly
- Subject to regular work inspections carried out by CORGI Inspectors

CORGI works to a tight remit prescribed by the HSE. As well as operating the register of competent gas installers, CORGI:

- Investigates gas safety related complaints from the public
- Provides members of the public with details of local registered installers

Don't take a risk –
always use a registered installer



CORGI Registered Installers have to undertake high levels of training in order to work with gas. Non-registered installers are breaking the law. Because they are not CORGI registered you have no way of knowing whether they are competent to undertake the work and you cannot have any confidence that the work has been carried out safely.

Using non-registered installers opens you up to many risks and you could endanger your life and the lives of your family and neighbours.

Make sure your gas installer is CORGI registered

BEFORE allowing anyone into your property to carry out gas related work, insist to see their CORGI ID card. For a registered installer this should not present a problem. The card should display:

Front:

- A photograph of the operative
- Their name
- The trading name of the registered business
- The CORGI Registered Installer logo with registration number underneath
- The expiry date of the card

Reverse:

- Details of the different types of gas work the operative is competent to undertake. Installers are not legally allowed to carry out any work not listed

The card also carries this information in Braille.

The risks of improper installation

Approximately 30 UK deaths per year, and hundreds of serious injuries, are caused by carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning due to faulty gas appliances and flues.



The areas of risk are:

Neglected appliances

It is important that gas appliances are correctly installed and are regularly checked for safety. This ensures they are working safely and reduces the chance of deadly CO being produced.

Flues

The flue is a passageway that draws fumes away from a gas appliance and exhausts them harmlessly into the outside air. Without a flue, the products of combustion have nowhere to go but back into your property, creating a risk of CO poisoning.

Not all appliances have a flue, but where one is present, you must ensure that it is correctly installed and not blocked (bird nests, soot build-ups, builder's rubble and even spider webs can prevent a flue from working correctly).

Ventilation

All gas appliances need air to work safely. The air 'breathed' in by appliances in your home can come from many different places so it is vital that you do not block ventilation that is purposely provided for gas appliances to operate safely.

Carbon monoxide poisoning

Carbon monoxide is a highly poisonous gas produced when gas appliances are not working correctly. It is extremely difficult to recognise as it has no colour, taste or smell.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to those of viral infections and include:

- Drowsiness
- Weakness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Chest pains

If anyone in your house experiences any of these symptoms whilst using a gas appliance, STOP USING THE APPLIANCE until it has been checked, and consult a doctor. Exposure to even relatively low levels can cause brain damage or death.



Gas appliances – danger signs

- Sooting or staining marks on or around the appliance
- A yellow or orange lazy flame – not crisp and blue
- Condensation in the room where the appliance is installed

If you recognise any of these signs STOP USING THE APPLIANCE until it has been checked by a CORGI Registered Installer.

Safety comes first

Landlords regulations

By law, landlords have a duty to ensure an annual safety check is carried out on each gas appliance that they own, in properties they let – by a CORGI Registered Installer.

If you live in rented accommodation, you should ask your landlord for written proof of this check – your landlord is legally obliged to provide you with this.



Don't DIY

Many people enjoy carrying out do-it-yourself work around the home. However, gas-related work is covered by strict regulations that say you must be competent to carry out this type of work. Do not attempt to carry out this type of work yourself:

- You could be breaking the law
- Tampering with gas could be life-threatening for you, your family and neighbours
- Enforcement action could be taken against you

How to find a local CORGI Registered Installer:

If you are having gas work carried out in your home you can find a local registered installer in the following ways:

- Telephone CORGI on 0870 401 2300
- Visit www.corgi-group.com
- Look in the Yellow Pages or Thomson Directory

Remember – Always ask to see your installer's CORGI ID card

If you are in any doubt about your gas installer's registration or you wish to make a complaint relating to gas safety please telephone CORGI Customer Services on 0870 401 2300.

