

SORT THE PROS FROM THE CONS

USING GAS SAFELY



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers
Board (PGDB) says:

ASK TO SEE THEIR CARD

A consumer guide to living safely with gas



WHO CAN I TRUST?

Everyone authorised to undertake restricted gasfitting work must carry their NZ Practising Licence and are required to produce it when asked.

THE PROS

Get peace of mind

- Only those who are registered and authorised by the PGDB can hold a NZ Practising Licence. Enjoy the peace of mind of knowing that the work is legal and is being carried out by someone who is experienced and competent.

Put your property and the health and safety of your family first

- To obtain a NZ Practising Licence, an authorised tradesperson undertakes rigorous high-quality training.
- It takes six years of work and study to become a certifying level gasfitter (the highest level of qualification).
- To maintain their authorisation all tradespeople must also attend annual continuing professional development training. They are up to date with health and safety standards, relevant codes, laws and product installation requirements.

THE CONS

Your property and the health and safety of your family are at risk

- The PGDB and The Insurance Council NZ warn consumers that work carried out by anyone who does not hold a NZ Practising Licence can void your insurance policy.
- Your home has a complex network of pipes and fittings that mix high pressures, high temperatures, gas, electricity and many other high-risk hazards which are dangerous and could potentially put your family's health and safety under threat if not handled correctly.



Check out our Youtube clip at www.pgdb.co.nz

WHAT IS GASFITTING?

Restricted gasfitting is any work involved in installing, altering or repairing gas appliances. This includes the fixing or unfixing of any gas pipes, ventilation or flue pipes, commissioning gas appliances, and ensuring their safe operation. The testing, setting, checking and adjusting of safety devices, combustion conditions and controls associated with the gas installation, and ensuring there is adequate ventilation, is also defined as gasfitting. It includes work on gas appliances fixed within buildings that are supplied by gas bottles of any size. Gasfitting also includes work on appliances fitted to ships, boats, caravans, motorhomes, trains and any other vehicles.

WHAT GASFITTING WORK DOES NOT INCLUDE

People who are not licensed gasfitters may undertake basic tasks. Work that is not defined as restricted gasfitting work includes work on portable gas appliances which have the gas bottle attached (generally 9kg) such as barbecues, cabinet heaters and patio heaters.

Important note: You need to obtain a gas certificate or certificate of compliance after the installation of most gas appliances. If you are unsure contact the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB) for advice.

CHECK IT'S LEGAL AT PGDB.CO.NZ



If you believe work you have had done is substandard or has been done by someone who does not hold a current license, you can make a complaint to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. Got to www.pgdb.co.nz/app



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INSTALL SAFELY

Always get a licensed gasfitter to install your gas appliances or alter your gas supply.

A licensed gasfitter will ensure that your gas appliance or installation is connected correctly, has adequate ventilation, is appropriately flued and is in good working order.

A Gasfitting Certificate is required for all gasfitting work. You can request a Gasfitting Certificate from the gasfitter or company that carried out the work. You can also find Gasfitting Certificate information at the Energy Safety website. www.worksafe.govt

MAINTAIN REGULARLY

Consumers, homeowners, landlords and tenants are responsible for ensuring the safe operation and maintenance of their gas appliances and equipment.

To ensure the safety and efficiency of your gas appliance get it checked regularly, always by an authorised and competent person.

- Flame effect heaters and LPG cabinet heaters should be serviced annually.
- Other types of space heaters and water heaters should be serviced at least every two years.
- Whenever a licensed gasfitter is working on your home, get them to check that your gas appliances and installations are safe.
- Consider replacing old appliances.
- Avoid buying second-hand appliances.

If ventilation inlets are blocked or restricted, or if a gas appliance is faulty or has not been adequately maintained, it can operate poorly, and possibly produce carbon monoxide, which can be fatal.

CARBON MONOXIDE

If an appliance cannot burn its fuel efficiently (due to inadequate ventilation or an appliance fault), it may produce carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a highly poisonous gas. While it is odourless, it is accompanied by other emissions that may produce a 'car exhaust' smell or watery eyes.

Breathing low levels of carbon monoxide can cause headaches, nausea, flushed (red) skin, dizziness, a false sense of well-being, tiredness and vomiting.

Prolonged exposure or high levels of carbon monoxide can lead to collapse, unconsciousness, or even death.

If you suspect you have been exposed to carbon monoxide move into fresh air, and seek immediate medical attention. If it can be done safely, turn off the appliance and ventilate the room. Contact a licensed gasfitter to check the gas appliance.

DANGER SIGNS

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

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

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

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SORT THE PROS FROM THE CONS

In New Zealand, you can buy fittings and appliances but it's illegal to do restricted gasfitting work yourself.

You need to use an authorised tradesperson.



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VITAL TO YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

If you smell gas:

- keep flames and cigarettes out of the room and away from the area
- if it can be done safely, turn off all gas appliances. Turn off the gas supply at the meter or LPG cylinder
- open doors and windows to ventilate the area
- leave electrical appliances or switches as they are. A flick off or on could cause a spark and ignite the gas
- don't use your phone in the area
- contact your gas retailer or a licensed gasfitter immediately to check the installation.