



Questionnaire

How safety savvy are you?

With your New Year's resolutions made – and hopefully not broken – it's a good time to reflect on your family's home safety needs.

It is shocking to learn that every year families die in their homes as a result of unsafe or neglected gas or electric installations or appliances. In the UK, 72 fires a day are caused by faulty electrics and at least 30 people a year are killed. Hundreds more are affected by carbon monoxide.

Take the short quiz below to test your knowledge of some very basic safety rules.

1. How often do you have your boiler serviced?
 - a) Once a year?
 - b) Every 3 or 4 years?
 - c) When it breaks down?

2. Your kitchen needs an extra electrical point what do you do?
 - a) As you're quite handy, save money by doing it yourself?
 - b) Get a mate to do it for cash in hand?
 - c) Employ a professional electrician who is Part P competent to do it for you?

3. Do you have a carbon monoxide detector?
 - a) What's that?
 - b) No – you have a keen sense of smell and don't need one
 - c) Yes – next to your central heating boiler and gas fire

4. Your open gas fire has started to develop orange flames. Do you:

- a) Call in a qualified gas engineer immediately?
 - b) Think how pretty it looks?
 - c) Notice how dirty it is, so give the coals a quick dust?
5. You smell gas – what do you do?
- a) Don't turn on any or all the lights/ appliances?
 - b) Open the windows?
 - c) Call the National Grid immediately?
 - d) Turn off the gas supply at the mains?
6. There are dark smoke streaks next to the gas fire on the wall. Do you:
- a) Repaint the wall?
 - b) Turn the fire down – it must be too hot?
 - c) Turn the fire off and call an engineer immediately?
7. As a homeowner, what can you do to safeguard your family?
- a) Get the boiler tested annually?
 - b) Get the electrics tested to make sure there are no hidden surprises?
 - c) Always call a qualified (Gas Safe Register and NICEIC or ELECSA) engineer to do the gas and electrical work in your home
 - d) All of the above
8. You need an electrician or a gas engineer. How do you find a reputable one?
- a) Ask friends and family for recommendations?
 - b) Look in Yellow Pages or the local newspaper?
 - c) Check their professional qualifications?
9. How many people die in their homes each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues?
- a) 5
 - b) 18
 - c) 30
10. How often do I need to have an EPC done?
- a) Every ten years
 - b) Annually

c) Monthly

Answers

1. a) Your boiler needs servicing at least once year. Any boilers, and particularly older ones such as back boilers, can be extremely dangerous if they are neglected.
2. c) Since January 2005 any electrical work in the home in England and Wales must now be done by a Part P competent electrician who should issue you with a Part P certificate of any works done.
3. c) Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer. Detectors are recommended to be placed next to main gas appliances such as boilers and open fires. These should be regularly checked and replaced.
4. a) Call the engineer immediately.
5. All of them! But in this order a,c,d,b. The number to call is 0800 111 999.
6. c) Smoke streaks next to a gas fire are a sign of carbon monoxide leaks. Turn the gas off straightaway and call an engineer.
7. d) It is important that you get the gas and electrics tested on a regular basis by a qualified engineer.
8. c) is the most important. A gas engineer should be Corgi registered, and an electrician Part P competent (in England and Wales) and a member of either the NICEIC or ELECSA.
9. c) Don't be one of them! Get your gas boiler and appliances serviced now.
10. a) The Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is valid for ten years and must be carried out by accredited Domestic Energy Assessors (DEAs). The EPC report will provide the information that grades the property on its energy and carbon emission efficiency.

These questions were compiled by the gas-elec Group. For further information call 0800 587 9999 or visit www.gas-elec.co.uk.

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