



Guidance for Working on or near Gas Flues

This guidance note is intended for those roofing trades who may encounter or be affected by gas flues whilst undertaking their work, for example, when a vertical flue is venting through a tiled roof.

Domestic gas boilers produce carbon monoxide, which is a poisonous gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. As such there are no signs to warn operatives that it is present. Exposure to carbon monoxide can be fatal. People could be exposed to carbon monoxide if a flue is damaged, blocked, restricted, badly fitted or poorly serviced. It could be easy for a flue to be damaged or dislodged during roof repairs or refurbishment work, therefore, it is essential to risk assess the work and if deemed required seek advice from a Gas Safe registered engineer.

Please note the following points that should be considered prior to starting work if a gas flue is present:

- Assume all flues are live.
- Check if your work requires a permit, for example where flues that vent through roofs are present.
- If you are working near a flue, then a risk assessment must be carried out, not only for the safety of the occupants of the property where the appliance is located, but also for the operatives themselves.
- If anyone is asked to work on a flue system that is connected to a gas appliance, then the individual working on the flue system **MUST** be Gas Safe registered.

- Have a documented process in place to ensure that the gas appliance is switched off and isolated when operatives are working.
- If during your works you come across a potentially live gas flue that you were not aware of—**STOP WORK** and take advice from a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- If you suspect that gas safety has been compromised—**STOP WORK** and take advice from a Gas Safe registered engineer immediately. This is essential if you have disturbed or damaged a gas flue.
- Engage a Gas Safe registered engineer to assess the work being carried out to see if the appliance needs to be disconnected from the gas supply, until the work is completed.
- Upon completion, the engineer would reconnect the appliance, and carry out several specific tests as required in the Gas Safety (*Installation & Use Regulations*), before classifying the appliance as safe to use.
- **STOP** work if you have any concerns about flues.

Published by

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December 2020

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