

CO2 Detectors in Dwellings

CO2 Detectors



BRK - CO4000EN

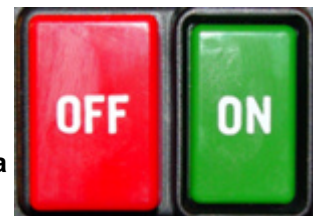
Battery Powered CO Detector

Important facts you should know about audible carbon monoxide alarms/detectors

- They are **NOT** like smoke detectors
- They are only designed to **last up to 5 years**
- The **test button does not and cannot test the sensor** on the alarm, merely the battery/circuitry
- They can be **seriously affected** by:
 - moisture
 - cigarette smoke due to its high carbon monoxide particles
- Some have a **sensor** that must be **replaced every year**
- Some are **battery operated** so will still function if there is a power cut
- If you have a **line-powered alarm** look for one that has a **battery back up** option
- Always look for a **long-term warranty and one that can be easily self-tested and reset** to ensure it functions properly

What do I do if my carbon monoxide alarm goes off?

- **Switch off** all gas/fossil fuel appliances immediately
- **Open doors and windows**
- **Call** an approved **Corgi registered engineer** or your **gas leak helpline** on 0800 111 999
- Ensure anyone suffering **symptoms of CO poisoning** is seen by a **doctor immediately**



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Preventing CO poisoning

It is extremely important to note that an appropriate CO detector will only give you some protection and is no substitute for getting your appliances checked/serviced every year by an approved GASAFE registered engineer.

The advantages of installing a Carbon Monoxide detector in your home

Early warning of heightened CO levels provided by installing a carbon monoxide detector can ensure that fatalities do not occur. Carbon monoxide alarms will sound the alarm before the concentrations of gas have reached the levels where an adult would be effected. Carbon monoxide detectors have installation requirements separate from those of smoke detectors and do not need to be installed at the top of a wall or on the ceiling. Make sure that you will be woken should your carbon monoxide detector go off whilst you are asleep. Install the alarm near your sleeping areas.

What are the main CO detector features?

Good quality carbon monoxide detectors have a loud alarm and are certified to British Standards. You will need to evacuate the room quickly if levels of carbon monoxide rise and you don't want to have to keep checking the battery condition. As a result buy a detector with an audible, ear piercing alarm and a long battery life (aim for 5 years). If you have a choice pay more to get the battery powered electronic detectors rather than chemical based models using chemical reactions and colour changes to show an alarm as these may not be noticed in time. Chemical CO detectors lose their effectiveness after 6 months and have to be changed, this increases the lifetime cost and puts you at risk if you forget to change the detector when it has expired. Most importantly the lack of an audible alarm means that this type of detector will not wake you if there is an excess of carbon monoxide produced when you are asleep at night. Carbon Monoxide detectors are now readily available in the high street being stocked by many types of stores.

Carbon Monoxide detectors should be regularly tested

Make a note to test your detector on a regular basis to ensure it is working. Read the manufacturer's instructions for guidance on how the detector should be tested. Detectors should be tested monthly and replaced if problems are found. Do not assume that any 'test' button tests the detector, often this functionality only checks the battery and the audible alarm. Many detectors have a limited lifetime, this can be 48 months or less. Some detectors last up to 5 years and operate off the mains or battery. You will need to select a model that meets your needs. There are combined detectors sold which combine smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within the same case. These may have specific installation instructions as advised by the manufacturer and you should pay particular attention as to how these should be installed.

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Tell me how to reduce the chances of Carbon Monoxide related illness.

Bad ventilation resulting in lack of oxygen leads to the production of poisonous carbon monoxide. Assuming that a ventilation audit of your proposed installation was completed before your boiler was fitted the best defence to this is the regular and expert servicing of any gas appliances that you have including your boiler.

Any engineer you contract to service your gas appliances should be GASAFE registered which will ensure that they have the training required to complete the task to the required standards. Fitting a carbon monoxide detector with an audible alarm is also a valuable investment to provide early warning of potential carbon monoxide poisoning. You should also keep air vents in doors, walls or windows clear – never cover them up to prevent draughts.

Also regularly inspect for plants which might be growing near a vent outside as over the course of a year they can also block them. Chimney ventilation can become obstructed in the summer by a birds nest and you may not notice if a fire is not used in the summer so a visual inspection should be incorporated in your home maintenance plans. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and CO alarms. If the CO detector alarm goes off make sure it is your CO detector and not your smoke detector.