

## Gas Safety Abroad

If you are going abroad and are concerned about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, there are a number of things you can do:

- Check what gas safety precautions your tour operator has in place for your accommodation. Does it carry out regular gas safety maintenance?
- Check if there is an audible carbon monoxide (CO) alarm fitted in the accommodation.
- If there isn't an alarm fitted, take your own. You may want to do this anyway to be completely safe.
- Make sure any CO alarm you take with you is EN-approved – look for the 'EN' symbol on the packaging.
- Your alarm should have an audible signal and a removable battery. You will need to remove all batteries from the alarm or disable them before travelling and replace batteries once you have arrived at your destination. If your CO alarm is a sealed unit you may be able to turn the alarm off whilst in transit by following manufacturer's procedures and turn it on when you arrive at your accommodation. If travelling on a plane take the CO alarm in hand luggage if it is activated.
- Place it near the appliance or in the bedroom, but make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use a 'black spot' / colour change type of CO detector. These are often inaccurate and will not alert you to the presence of carbon monoxide if you are asleep, out of the room, or being affected by CO fumes.
- Remember the symptoms, which include feeling sick, dizzy, lacking energy, or suffering severe headaches. If you experience any of these symptoms indoors but feel better outside, seek urgent medical attention and say that you suspect CO poisoning. Immediately report your concerns to your holiday rep or other responsible person, and do not return to your accommodation until it has been checked.
- Look out for signs of obvious distress on any gas appliances in your accommodation, including brown or black marks or stains, lazy orange flames instead of crisp blue ones, pilot lights that easily blow out and excessive condensation in the room.

If you buy a CO alarm to take with you on holiday, remember to use it at home once you get back.