

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A guide to compensation

Expert advice

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a gas which is produced when fuels such as gas, oil, coal and wood don't burn fully. Burning charcoal, running cars and the smoke from cigarettes also produce carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide, often known as "the silent killer" is very dangerous when breathed in and can have fatal consequences. Even when not fatal, it can cause you to become very unwell.

Slater and Gordon has experts who specialise in carbon monoxide poisoning claims and have done so for many years. If you think you have a claim for carbon monoxide poisoning, please contact us.



What causes carbon monoxide poisoning?

There are various causes of carbon monoxide poisoning. The main cause of exposure to carbon monoxide is household appliances which have been installed incorrectly or poorly maintained.

Examples of what can produce carbon monoxide include:

- boilers
- gas fires
- central heating systems
- water heaters
- cookers
- open fires
- blocked flues and chimneys
- burning fuel in an enclosed or unventilated space
- faulty or blocked car exhausts

Who might be to blame for carbon monoxide poisoning?

If someone else is responsible for maintaining appliances which have caused carbon monoxide poisoning, they may be negligent.

Some of those who may be responsible include:

- local councils
- private landlords
- housing associations
- hotel owners
- caravan park owners

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Carbon monoxide is especially dangerous as you can't smell, see or taste it. However, someone suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning would usually display symptoms, such as:

- headaches
- dizziness or confusion
- nausea and sickness
- tiredness and lethargy
- shortness of breath
- clumsiness and loss of coordination
- abdominal pain
- loss of consciousness

The level of exposure will usually determine the level of symptoms experienced.

MILD EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fatigue• Slight headache• Flu-like symptoms• Vomiting• Nausea
MEDIUM EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confusion• Rapid heart rate• Drowsiness• Severe headache
SEVERE EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unconsciousness• Cardiac/Respiratory failure• Convulsions• Severe headache

Please feel free to discuss your own position and concerns. Contact your nearest office on:

T: 0800 916 9015
E: enquiries@slatergordon.co.uk
W: www.slatergordon.co.uk

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Advice on making a claim for compensation

For those who don't have experience of the legal process, contacting a lawyer and making a claim for compensation can be a daunting prospect. However, we're with our clients every step of the way, ensuring they understand the claims process, and relieving the burden of having to deal with a variety of practical issues, at what can be a difficult time.



What should you do if you think you have a claim?

Contact us. Our team of specialists have a vast amount of experience in dealing with carbon monoxide poisoning.

It may be helpful to provide us with documentation such as blood test results, details of any appliance repairs and photographs of the appliance in question.

Once we've taken details, we'll confirm whether or not you have a claim. If you're entitled to compensation, we can start work on your case straightaway and begin gathering evidence.

Time limits apply when making a claim for compensation, so don't delay in contacting us.

What is the cost of making a claim?

We understand that the cost of legal advice can be a worry, but there are options available to fund personal injury cases.

You may have legal expenses insurance under an existing insurance policy which entitles you to free representation. If legal expenses insurance is not in place, we can conduct your case under a Conditional Fee Agreement, also known as a 'No Win, No Fee' Agreement. This means if the case fails, no payment is due.

Once we know the circumstances of your case, we'll be able to discuss your funding options in more detail.

What is the amount of compensation likely to be?

Compensation will be based on the severity of your illness, and also on your personal circumstances. For example, if you've been unable to work as a result of your illness, loss of earnings may be accounted for. If you were responsible for household chores or caring for a dependent and are no longer able to, the cost of assistance will be taken into account.

How long is the case likely to take?

Every case is different so it's difficult to estimate how long a case is likely to take without first reviewing the circumstances. However, the case will be dealt with by an expert in carbon monoxide poisoning who will deal with the case as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Frequently asked questions

Will I have to go to court?

A large majority of cases settle before a trial takes place. However, if the case doesn't settle before trial, attendance at court may be necessary.

Will I have to attend a medical appointment?

If we advise you that we're able to pursue a claim on your behalf, you will have to attend an independent medical in order for us to obtain a report to use as part of your evidence.

What if I've lost a loved one due to carbon monoxide poisoning?

A claim can still be made by the Estate's legal representative (the person named as Executor in the Will if there is one) or otherwise by a family member.

What if there is an Inquest?

An Inquest can be a daunting prospect for a bereaved family. We have a team of specialist lawyers with a vast amount of experience in representing families at Inquests. They can guide families through the process and ensure all their questions are addressed with empathy and understanding and that the events are investigated thoroughly.

What if I need assistance in other areas?

We have expert lawyers in many areas of law such as family, employment, welfare benefits, trusts, Court of Protection and disability rights and work closely with those departments to ensure that you get the best possible outcome.