

Dear Owner/Occupier,

RE: OPEN-FLUE GAS SPACE HEATER INSPECTION AND SERVICE

Your heater was serviced on _____. During the inspection, your open-flue gas space heater was found to be installed in a living space subject to negative pressure.

Negative pressure is created when extraction fans (including kitchen range-hoods) remove air from the building more quickly than it can be replenished. When this happens, air can be drawn back down your space heater's flue, causing combustion products to enter into the living space (instead of being vented outside as they should be).

Carbon monoxide

Combustion products contain carbon monoxide (CO), which is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas that **can cause death or chronic illness**. Several recent incidents of CO poisoning from open-flue gas space heaters have led **Energy Safe Victoria** and the Victorian Building Authority to launch safety awareness programs for all Victorian households and gasfitters.

CO poisoning can occur in any home or building with gas heating appliances, including newer models. Sadly, in the past decade nine Victorians have died from CO poisoning (including brothers Chase and Tyler Robinson, who died in their Mooroopna home in 2010).

Fixing a negative pressure situation

Negative pressure situations can be fixed by ensuring ventilation openings in your home or building are clear (older homes can have flywire mesh behind the vents) and, where necessary, installing additional ventilation. Your gasfitter should be able to carry out the work required.

(Visit the ESV website to watch a short animation explaining the effects of negative pressure.)

What to do if you keep using your open-flue gas space heater

While your open-flue gas space heater has been left operating, you are strongly advised to stop using it until the negative pressure situation has been fixed. If you do decide to use your heater, you should either:

- leave a window open in the rooms where your extraction fans are located, or
- switch off all your extraction fans while your heater is operating.

Using alternative heating sources

If you are going to use an alternative heating source, make sure it is designed to be used indoors. Gas appliances designed for outdoor use or for another purpose (like a gas oven or gas hotplate), should never be used for heating. You should only ever use gas appliances indoors if they are designed for indoor use, and only in the way they are intended to be used.

Further information

For further information on what you need to do, contact the Victorian Building Authority on 1300 815 127 during business hours.

INSPECTION/SERVICE RESULTS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Test 1: Visual check and ventilation requirement

Test result Pass Fail

Reasons:

Recommended action:

Test 2: Negative pressure environment

Test result Pass Fail

Reasons:

Recommended action:

Test 3: Confirm safe operation of appliance and flue (CO Test)

Test result Pass Fail

Reasons:

Recommended action:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Registration/Licence: _____ Date: _____