



# The use of gas heaters in homes

## The Department of Civil Protection's guidelines (slightly edited)

For residents of Reykjanes planning to use gas heaters during this time, here are some important things to keep in mind:

- **Consider Air Exchange:** Ensure enough ventilation in the space to prevent harmful gas buildup. Keep doors open in small areas and use fans for additional ventilation. Also, some gas heaters are not meant for indoor use.
- **Beware of Carbon Monoxide:** Gas heaters can produce carbon monoxide (CO), which is colorless and odorless. It can be life-threatening if not detected in time.
- **Know the Signs of CO Poisoning:** Symptoms include headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, or numbness. If you experience any of these, ventilate the area immediately and get fresh air.
- **Install Gas Detectors:** Place gas detectors in living areas, positioning them close to the floor since CO is heavier than air. Remember, gas detectors to measure CO require specialized equipment.
- **Do not go to sleep with a gas heater running.** Place the gas cylinder outdoors before going to bed.
- **Do not leave the space with the gas heater:** Use the heater only for short periods.
- **Recognize Gas Smells:** Gas can sometimes smell like rotten eggs. If you detect this odor, turn off the gas immediately and check connections for any leaks. Remember, carbon monoxide itself is odorless.
- **Follow the Manufacturer's Recommendations:** Use the heater as directed by the manufacturer, and ensure the gas cylinder remains upright. Laying it on its side can cause gas to convert to liquid, creating a potential hazard.
- **Keep Flammable Items Away:** Make sure there are no flammable materials near the heater, such as nylon fabrics, curtains, or gas cylinders.
- **Supervise Children and Pets:** Never leave them unattended around gas heaters to prevent burns or accidents.
- **Consider Alternative Heating:** Explore and use other heating options like cozy blankets, warm clothing, including warm socks and hats, and drawing curtains to keep warmth indoors.