

GAS SAFETY IN DRYCLEANING

Everyone has a responsibility with regards to gas safety. The Health and Safety Executive has transferred gas safety registration board and enforcement from CORGI to Gas Safe Register. This regulation works well but can only work as well as gas users are aware of their responsibilities.

It does seem that a large sector of drycleaning is blind to gas safety in the work place.

Crumbling, defective flues (chimneys), undersized and unsupported gas pipe work and inadequate ventilation are amongst the most common and potentially fatal defects qualified engineers have come to find in many of today's unit drycleaning shops.

There is the key word, 'qualified'. It is unlawful to carry

out work on any gas appliance in any form without the proper formal qualifications. It is also unlawful to employ an engineer who the shopkeeper knows not to be gas registered.

It is illegal to carry out gas work unless competent to do so. Competent defines proper training certification and registration in the gas work undertaken.

How can a gas user/landlord be aware of whether the engineer they employ is 'competent'? Easy – ask your engineer to produce their Gas Safe registered card, it is a credit card size with a photo and registration number on the front with a Gas Safe logo in the corner, or alternatively log on to www.gassaferegister.com and enter your engineer's details.

Here are a few examples of what the danger signs a user can

Boiler Service Engineer David Vale reports

visually look out for:

Signs that the products of combustion (burnt gas) are not being properly flued away, look for blackening around the boiler / appliance, carbon monoxide is deadly and odourless. On older tube type boilers a yellow flame seen from the grate is a bad sign and needs to be checked out, it shows that the gas is not being efficiently burnt and apart from being a potential hazard to your health it will also be costing you money.

Take a look at your chimney.

Does it look in good condition? Fumes from your drycleaning machine can get sucked in and burnt by your boiler and cause rapid discolouration of flue pipe and its perforation.

Check outside, does the flue look in good condition? Is it well supported?

Does the flue pipe rise above the gutter line and any windows on loft conversions?

Boiler house ventilation and lack of it in many instances is a major cause of gas burning problems. Has your boiler house become an additional store cupboard for all your old stock, ticket books, broken clothes rails and florescent light fittings and tubes? Do not keep combustible items in your boiler room, if you must utilise this space for this purpose are you blocking

ventilation bricks or louvers? Has someone blocked off a vent to stop a cold draught? A common problem is the installation of an extractor fan in your boiler room, disconnect it, it is illegal as it can suck back the burnt gas into the boiler room from the flue pipe and cause carbon monoxide to be present.

This isn't an exhaustive list but can set you on the right direction,

If in doubt about a gas appliance's performance, odd smells or just a general gas safety enquiry do this:

Contact a suitably qualified engineer.

Get a gas safety certificate.

You are not just complying with the law; you could be saving your own life and those in your employ.

Girbau UK holds open day at TTH Laundry Services

More than 30 laundries and linen rental companies from across the country recently attended a Girbau UK open day event held at TTH Laundry Services in the Wirral. With a comprehensive range of Girbau's industrial laundry equipment on show, visitors were able to see how TTH has expanded production and increased productivity since opening its new premises and investing in the first Girbau EcoTunnel System™ installed in Britain.

Among the many visitors introduced to the latest Girbau equipment and given a guided tour of the laundry by Girbau and TTH staff were representatives from Afonwen, Britannia Linen and Mid Cheshire NHS Linen Services. Also on hand offering independent advice were Steve Anderton and Stuart Boyd of the Laundry Technology Centre.

In a prize draw for attendees of the event first prize of a trip to Spain for two went to Tarik Saleem, managing director of The Linen Group in Manchester. Mick Connor of Paragon and Glenn Newman of Chelsea Laundry received runners-up prizes of Kindle e-readers.

"We are very proud of what we have been able to achieve at TTH by investing in the latest high efficiency and high productivity equipment from Girbau UK," says TTH sales director Vicki Hughes.

"For an expanding business like TTH the installation of the Girbau EcoTunnel System and our ironing and folding lines



Laundries and linen rental companies from across the country recently attended a Girbau UK open day event held at TTH Laundry Services

gives the scope to compete effectively against all-comers," says Peter Marsh, managing director of Girbau UK. "It's an impressive set-up and I am delighted that we have been able to use an event like this to showcase our machinery alongside their success."

Girbau UK is planning to host further equipment demonstration open days in collaboration with TTH throughout 2012 and a similar event at another UK laundry demonstrating a Girbau 10-stage TBS-50 batch washing system.

Developed specifically to offer the competitive and environmental benefits of batch washing to smaller laundries, the EcoTunnel system is ideal for laundering between 250 and

500kg per hour. It offers astounding energy savings of 80 per cent, water savings of 75 per cent and 50 per cent savings in labour and detergent costs.

In addition to a six-stage TBS-50 tunnel washer with verified disinfection, the TTH Laundry features Girbau's acclaimed SPR-50 press and two ST-100 high efficiency dryers. The laundry has also recently invested in a Girbau PSN-80 ironer with a three-lane folder and stacker as well as a PS-5132 ironer. Other Girbau equipment includes 40kg and 23kg washer extractors and 120lb, 75lb and 50lb dryers. The latest addition is the compact FT-LITE towel folder – one of the most popular innovations on display at the open day.

A £40,000 saving washed out with the laundry

Independent laundry services provider, StarCounty Textiles Limited, is set to save more than £40,000 on its energy bills thanks to a commercial energy consultant based in north west England.

At a time when businesses are being hung out to dry with the continued rise in energy costs, energy broker Power Solutions has secured a two-year contract to save the Wrexham-based laundry a substantial amount.

The savings have been made in the company's custom built facility, supplying laundry services to hotels across the north west, midlands and north Wales - from national accounts such as Copthorne and Mint groups to small guest houses.

The new contract will save StarCounty Textiles Services Limited an impressive £20,000 on its gas and electricity bills a year, which breaks down into a 10 per cent saving on gas and a seven per cent saving on electricity per year.

StarCounty Textiles Services Limited general manager, Michael McLean says: "In this tough economic climate everyone looks for ways to save money.

"The continued rise of running costs has hit many businesses which unfortunately may lead to price increases for customers.

"The savings made by Power Solutions have allowed StarCounty Services Limited to keep prices competitive and offer the best possible service to our valued customers."

Power Solutions can help businesses like StarCounty Textiles Services Limited to save thousands of pounds through its free analysis and audit service. Businesses simply have to supply Power Solutions with recent copies of their utility bills and details of their current contracts.

Power Solutions

Talking energy to business

Using this information the Power Solutions team were able to research the market and liaise with key power suppliers to broker the most suitable deal for the business.

McLean says: "We've worked with Power Solutions since 2005 and have been impressed with the level of savings over the years.

"The team facilitates the entire process from start to finish at no cost to ourselves. We'd recommend them to any prospective client who wants to get the best value on their energy."

Power Solutions managing director, Jeremy Taylor, adds: "With utility bills at a record high, businesses cannot afford to sit back and do nothing.

"We can help all types of organisations to cut back on their energy costs. The results from StarCounty Textile Services Limited show that we really can make a huge impact on a business' bottom line."

StarCounty Textiles Services Limited is an independent laundry services provider offering quality linen hire and laundry services throughout the north west and north Wales.

Power Solutions is one of the UK's leading energy consultants offering a variety of services from energy procurement and efficiency to new network installations. The company is on target for a 25 per cent year-on-year growth in real terms with 2012 set to be just as successful as more and more businesses look to save on energy costs.

The company helps all sizes of businesses to reduce energy costs through a full analysis and audit that identifies how savings can be made.