

HOME SAFETY

ELECTRICAL

Fire Prevention

- Avoid using multiple plug-in adapters, they could cause overloading of your wiring circuits
- Adapters are available to enable 110 volt plugs to be converted to 220 volt plugs, in most cases, appliances will be damaged beyond repair instantly upon plugging these into 220 volt receptacles.

Shock Prevention – Grounding Issues

- Economy Housing

Electrical circuits should be checked for proper ground prior to moving into a leased house. The Housing Department has certified technicians that inspect and approve dwellings that can be leased by American Renters. Don't assume this has been done recently. Require the landlord to provide the "Certificate of Conformity" in accordance with Italian Safety Law. This certificate is valid for electrical and gas systems.

- Electrical Power Cord Plugs

Many people use improper adapters to their appliances and equipment. Using the wrong adapter can by-pass the ground connection, causing a significant risk of getting electrocuted.

- Fire Inspectors are the Grounding Experts – contact them if you have any questions

NATURAL GAS STOVES / OVENS / DRYERS

- Do not use spoons, forks, etc. to bypass the safety thermocouple on your stove. Doing this will allow accumulations of gas resulting in an explosion. If you are having trouble lighting off your oven, call the Housing Warehouse for a repairman or report it to the Zone Manager.
- If you are not familiar with gas stove units, get the proper training from the Housing Department. Personal training and literature is available.
- All vents – dryers, ovens / stoves, etc. should be vented to the outside directly at the location of the appliance. Some landlords may want to route the exhaust for long distances before going through an outside wall. This is not good because the appliance exhaust blower may not have enough power to overcome a long piping system. Before moving into your economy leased house, require the landlord to make this improvement if it has not been done.

- Lighting your oven
 - a. If it fails to light after you have flowed gas for a while, stop, let it air out before trying again.
 - b. If you smell natural gas in the house: open the windows and doors, do not operate any electrical switches or appliances, leave the house and call 911 / 081-568-4911.
 - c. Try to keep your face to the side when lighting your oven.

VENTILATING YOUR RESIDENCE

- Occasionally open the windows and air out your home
- **Lint Traps Do Not Remove Dryer Exhaust Fumes** – The little water trap only collects lint, water will not absorb products of combustion from the dryer burning natural gas, therefore there will be accumulations of carbon monoxide inside the dwelling.
- Fugitive Natural Gas Vapors
 - a. How do you detect? you smell it, it has the same odor as that in the States
 - b. Step 1 (if fugitive gas is discovered in your dwelling) – close the valve on the feed line to your dwelling. (know where it is ahead of time)
 - c. Step 2 – **Do not operate** any electrical switches or appliances in the dwelling.
 - d. Step 3 – Try not to touch anything, static electricity can be an ignition source.
 - e. Step 4 – Vacate the dwelling.
 - f. Step 5 – Call 911 or 081-568-4911 (emergency response)

CARBON MONOXIDE RISK CONTROL

- Carbon Monoxide Alarms - Government Quarters has them already in the units
- Housing Warehouse has them for economy leased units
- Know how they operate – read the directions or ask Housing for training
- Make sure the batteries are fresh
- Carbon Monoxide is lighter than air – position the detector at eye level or above if practical
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Symptoms: headache, nausea, exhaustion
- Children and people persons with health problems are more susceptible
- Any suspected victims should be taken to fresh air and call for emergency medical help
- If your alarm reads 15 PPM or more call for someone to come to your dwelling if you do not know where the CO is coming from.