

Discussion Forum - Registration and Use

<https://www.gas-news.co.uk/discussion/>

Navigate to the top right hand corner of the forum splash screen and click the **Register** link which is next to the **Login** link. That will deliver the default forum user agreement. If you agree, click the link and proceed to the registration panel shown below.

The registration panel will ask you to provide a username and password. Parameters for both are posted. The username cannot later be changed but you can change your password at any time automatically.

You will also be asked to enter an email address. No one will ever be able to see your email address. Global default security settings prevent that.

Then you have the challenge test to prove you are human, where you enter the characters generated on the displayed panel, in this example below P3KNW8, all uppercase.

Finally, click the Submit button to move on to the information screen (next page). That panel will confirm your registration and request that you wait until you receive confirmation by Admin that your account has been activated.

Registration panel

GAS-NEWS.CO.UK
A discussion group on domestic gas matters

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GAS-NEWS.CO.UK - REGISTRATION

Please note that you will need to enter a valid email address before your account is activated. You will receive an email at the address you provide that contains an account activation link.

Username:
Length must be between 4 characters and 20 characters.

Password:
Password must be at least 6 characters long, must contain letters in mixed case and must contain numbers.

Confirm password:

Email address:

My timezone: UTC+01:00 - 10 Sep 2022, 11:46
Europe/London

CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION

To prevent automated registrations the board requires you to enter a confirmation code. The code is displayed in the image you should see below. If you are visually impaired or cannot otherwise read this code please contact the Board Administrator.

Confirmation code: P3KNW8

Refresh confirmation code

Enter the code exactly as it appears. All letters are case insensitive.

Submit

Information screen

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INFORMATION

Your account has been created. However, this board requires account activation by the administrator group. An email has been sent to them and you will be informed when your account has been activated.

Return to the index page

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Flat Style by Ian Bradley
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Before you start to post on the forum it is *strongly recommended* you **Login** and set up your UCP or User Control Panel, which is shown next. Some settings concern your personal privacy choices.

User Control Panel (UCP)

GAS-NEWS.CO.UK
A discussion group on domestic gas matters

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USER CONTROL PANEL

Overview Profile Board preferences Private messages Usergroups Friends & Foes Delete My Account

FRONT PAGE

Front page
Manage subscriptions
Manage bookmarks
Manage drafts
Manage attachments
Manage notifications

Welcome to the User Control Panel. From here you can monitor, view and update your profile, preferences, subscribed forums and topics. You can also send messages to other users (if permitted). Please ensure you read any announcements before continuing.

YOUR ACTIVITY

Joined: Sat Sep 10, 2022 11:49 am
Last active: Sat Sep 10, 2022 11:55 am
Total posts: 0 | [Show your posts](#)
(0.00 posts per day / 0.00% of all posts)

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Whenever you are logged in your chosen username will appear in the top right corner of your screen. Click your username and select User Control Panel from the drop-down menu. There are two menus to note.

A horizontal tab menu and a vertical menu on the left which relates to each horizontal tab selected. The UCP invites you to add some personal data under **profile**. Personal data is not required information. For you to decide what you want to disclose. Work through each tab in turn and most of it is obvious.

Listed below, what it is recommended you consider:

Profile (tab)

You can add an avatar and the parameters set for avatars are posted. If you want to add an avatar and do not know how, one can be created for you. Email Admin. Note: by default, remote avatars and gravatar are disabled. Avatars cannot be uploaded from other websites*.

Board preferences (tab)

- You can opt-out to prevent anyone contacting you via the forum. People otherwise can contact you by default*.
- Your online status can be permanently disabled by default by you. Or, if you elect not to conceal your online status by default, you can do so for one session as you log in*.
- A forum extension has been added to force external links to open in new windows. Close those new windows to return to the forum. You can disable this using the ELONW link. The forum itself will open in a new window when linked from the Gas-News website.

Private messages (tab)

For your information the following current restrictions apply:

- Maximum number of attachments per private message = 1
- Maximum file size = 50 KB
- One storage folder can be created, holding five messages. Additional messages prune older messages by default. Save any you want to keep.
- Message editing time 60 minutes.

Delete my account (tab)

This is a forum extension that has been added as an extra to enable anyone to delete their own account and any postings made, at any time. Please note this act is *irrevocable*. First save anything you wish to keep. The data cannot be later recovered*.

Using the Forum

Messages are added to each topic as desired and older postings scroll off the page, into the archive which can be accessed via the forum search engine. Only Admin can add new topics at the current time.

All this keeps management of the forum simple and quick for the dedicated purpose. The following list indicates the parameters set for this forum:

1. All registered users have equal status and can start posting immediately they are successfully registered.
2. Attachments can be added to posts. One attachment per post and a maximum of 50 KB file size. Help can be provided on request to format files or images to get below 50 KB if you do not have the software. Contact Admin.

3. The order in which postings are presented to you can be altered in the UCP under the tab Board preferences (edit display options).
4. Maximum image dimensions for everyone (including Admin), is 600px x 400px with a file size maximum, as above of 50 KB (sample on the forum now).
5. Anyone posting can tick a box so they are notified of any response to their own postings.
6. Editing time for postings 60 minutes. After that contact Admin.
7. Hypertext links permitted in postings. One per post. Any advertising will be deleted. If in doubt ask. Links only permitted to http and https link schemes. Links to other plumbing or gas forums permitted. Gas-News was always a media platform, never a private club.
8. Minimum characters per post 50. Maximum 60,000.
9. Quote previous posting nesting depth = 1

This document will be expanded or revised as the need arises in response to any questions or suggestions received. The version number will be revised accordingly, at the top of the page.

Safeguarding and protocols

All users must be registered to make postings. Anyone not registered may visit and read all postings. No pages are hidden.

1. All device IP addresses and email addresses used to register are first automatically checked against two international databases to deny hackers: Spamhaus.com and Spamcop.net. This has so far been hugely successful on other forums maintained.
2. Brute force attacks on the server (where this domain is hosted) via the forum can result in the IP address being blocked automatically after three *consecutive* failed attempts with wrong password use. It will then appear this domain no longer exists. If you believe you may have accidentally triggered this protocol, ask a friend to email Admin *from a different IP address*. You will need to quote your own IP address which can be obtained by typing "my IP" into your favourite search engine.
3. Email addresses cannot be disclosed on the forum. That feature is disabled but you can contact each other via the forum, using private messaging, if enabled by you*.
4. Cookies are used on the forum only. Forums, online shopping carts and social media *cannot work* without cookies operating. Minimum cookies used and set automatically by the forum. For details of cookies select the **Learn more** link on the cookies banner when it appears. Anyone can delete cookies on exit and that is recommended.*

Privacy stuff

All starred measures are included to maximise the privacy of visitors.

That said, it is highly recommended that you have your web browser set to automatically delete all cookies when you exit the browser, after visiting any website. Then your internet use cannot be tracked by anyone.

Technical stuff for those interested

The forum utilises the powerful phpBB3 architecture. The website, forum and email have SSL protection. If you have any questions contact admin@gas-news.co.uk.

The forum is housed inside the Gas-News.co.uk website in its own directory (a folder), which, should the need arise, enable that directory to be password protected. In theory any website could house endless forums, each in a separate website directory, to support endless unique subjects.

But there is no need to. The powerful phpBB3 is capable of supporting endless sub-forums on endless subjects, all in the same directory. Significantly each sub-forum can be configured completely independently, to suit different audiences.

The Gas-News forum set up however is simple, to save work. The principal sub-forum is called The Big Issue. Without this product non-compliance issue cropping up, the website and forum would not have been created. This sub-forum includes a bunch of closely related topics which mirror the website topics. Currently, only Admin can create topics. Any *registered* visitor can reply to or contribute to the topics.

The organisation structure is deliberately lean so we can stay focused. Anyone can visit and read any part of the forum. No pages are hidden. Pages can be printed and downloads taken. But only *registered* users can post information.

A second sub-forum has been created called A Testing Ground and has no function other than a single topic where people can experiment with forum features and options. Perhaps new discussion ideas. A virtual playground for registered visitors.