

## Who Turned Out the (Pilot) Lights?

Part of the safety measures that are fundamental to the use of Glitsa Swedish finishes is the need to extinguish gas pilot lights prior to coating floors. Here are a few easy steps to ensure that no flame source will be overlooked.

First, to avoid overlooking a flame source, ask the homeowner for a list of all gas appliances in the house and which appliances use a pilot light. If there is any uncertainty on either the part of the homeowner or the contractor, the fail-safe approach is to turn off the main gas supply to the house. This valve is usually in plain sight along the perimeter of the house. If you cannot readily locate

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the valve, call the gas utility company. Most fire departments require that gas utility companies maintain a record of the location of the gas main valve for each house. Attach a note to the valve indicating why it is off and how long it must remain off.

Not all gas appliances use pilot lights. Some appliances use electronic igniters. If the appliance clearly does not use a pilot light, it is best to not only turn the appliance off but also to turn off the circuit breaker or unplug it (if

applicable). If you do unplug an appliance or turn off its breaker, it is advisable to attach a note to the cord or the breaker indicating why the power must remain off and for how long. If there is a gas valve at the appliance, turn it off as well. If you are ever in doubt, call the gas utility company. They are usually eager to assist you. Or you may choose to call the appliance manufacturer. The easiest thing to do is turn off the main gas valve to the house if there is any doubt.

Once the vapors have subsided to a safe level, which depends entirely on how well the house has been ventilated after coating, the pilot lights will need to be re-lit. Many appliances include instructions inside an access door or panel. Some manufacturers may post a customer service phone number in the same area. If neither is available, call the local gas utility company. They may even be willing to send a technician out to the jobsite at no charge.

One important safety tip to remember is natural gas is “perfumed” to smell like rotten eggs. If you experience more than a hint of this smell during re-start procedures, be on guard. Once again, when in doubt, call the gas utility company.

Turning off and restarting gas appliances is usually easy and can be accomplished safely and quickly. The contractor just needs to take all ignition sources into account and be careful. Above all, when in doubt, call the gas utility. They are eager to help. ♦

