

Gas space heating appliances with split/damaged heat exchangers

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If you are working on an old gas space heating appliance and notice that it has developed a crack or split in the heat exchanger, then it should be condemned as unsafe, tagged and isolated

The split may be caused by the age of the appliance, metal fatigue or other factors and is generally not something that can be economically repaired.

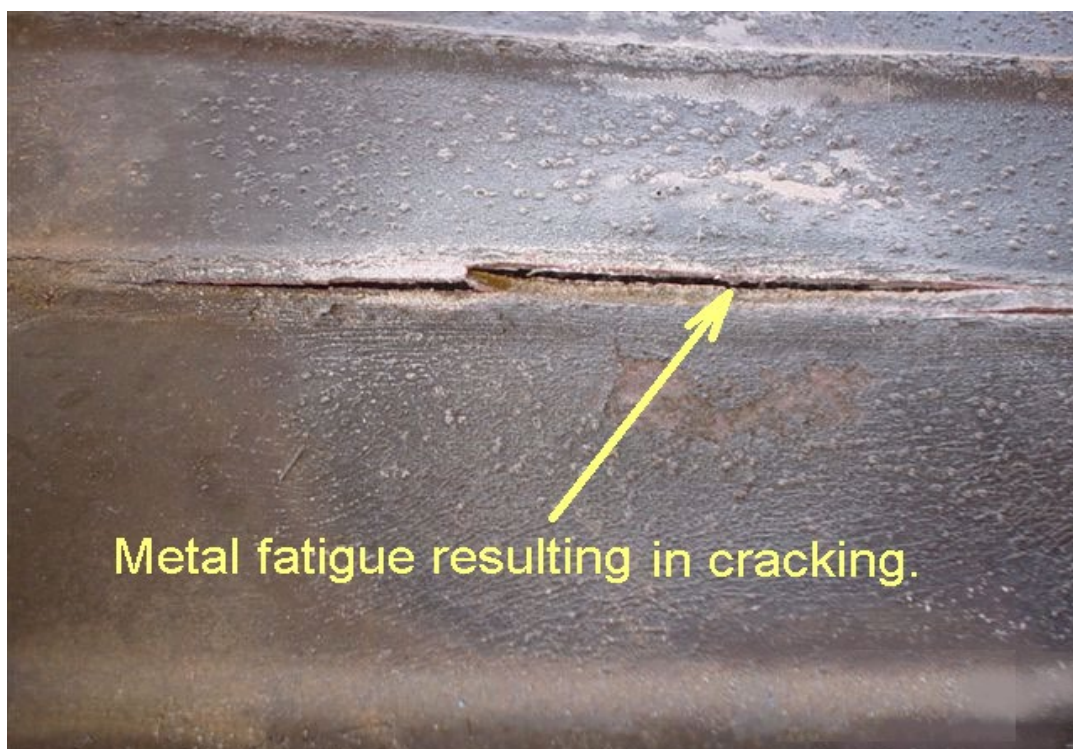
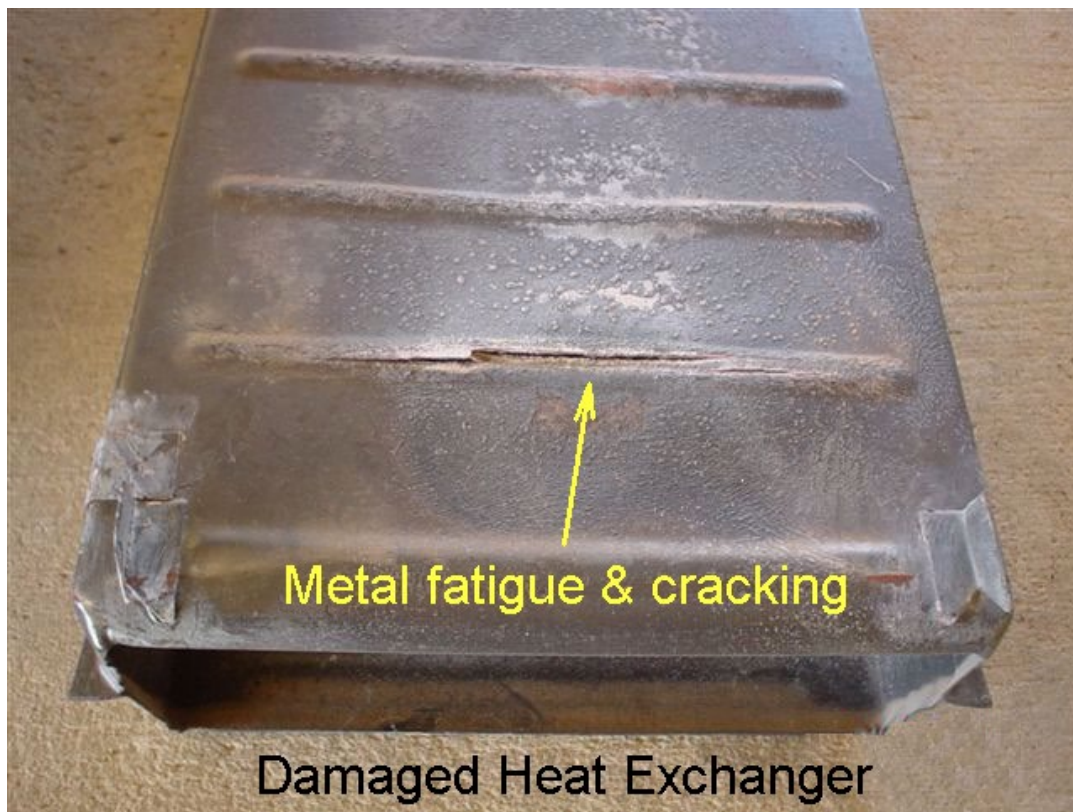
Burnt flue gases that are normally vented safely via the heat exchanger to the flue, may spill into the room via the damaged heat exchanger. This is potentially dangerous to persons in the room, particularly if Carbon Monoxide is present in the flue gases.

The Gas Act requires the gas fitter bring this matter to the attention of the user and or the owner in the interest of their safety, isolate the appliance and place a safety (do not operate) tag on the appliance.

This tag must not be removed until the matter is rectified safely. You may be able to advise your customer on whether spare parts are available and the likely cost of repairs or if a replacement appliance is the best option.

This action is in the interest of your clients' safety, there are safety bulletins available to gas fitters from this office to explain the fact that the existing situation does pose a very real hazard and that your advice should be seen to be in their interest and not just an attempt to extract more money from them.





Contact the Office of the Technical Regulator for more information

Online otr.sa.gov.au
Email otr@sa.gov.au
Phone 8226 5722



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South Australia**