



Carbon Monoxide Detectors

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas produced whenever any fuel, such as oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal, is burned. Carbon Monoxide cannot be seen nor smelled. However, constant exposure to acute levels of CO could cause health problems such as nausea, fatigue, headaches, amnesia, Parkinson's disease, and many more. And at high concentrations, Carbon Monoxide can even be fatal.

When are CO detectors mandatory?

For new construction:

As per Section R315.1 of the 2010 CRC, "an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in dwelling units and in sleeping units within which fuel-burning appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages."

For existing dwellings:

As per Section R315.2 of the 2010 CRC, "Carbon monoxide alarms shall only be required in the specific dwelling unit or sleeping unit [that has attached garages or fuel-burning appliances] for which the [alteration, repair, or addition] permit [exceeding \$1,000] was obtained."

Where and how should CO detectors be installed?

As per Section R315.3 of the 2010 CRC, Carbon Monoxide alarms are to be installed in the following locations:

1. Outside of each separate dwelling unit sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom(s).
2. On every level of a dwelling unit including basements.

Where more than one carbon monoxide alarm is required to be installed within the dwelling unit or within a sleeping unit the alarm shall be interconnected in a manner that the activation of one alarm shall activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.

Exception: Interconnection is not required in existing dwelling units where repairs do not result in the removal of wall and ceiling finishes, there is no access by means of attic, basement or crawl space, and no previous method for interconnection existed.

