

Ontario Fire Code Regulations: Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

Effective January 1st, 2026

Where does this apply?

The new requirements apply to buildings that contain Care Occupancies as defined in the Fire Code. These are facilities for residents who require special care and need assistance to evacuate in an emergency. These facilities include, but are not limited to:

- Convalescent Homes
- Residential Care Facilities
- Specified Group Homes

Where must I put the alarms?

CO alarms will be mandatory in both the individual resident units and common areas of the building.

1. Inside Individual Care Occupancy Units

A CO alarm must be installed in a resident unit if any of the following conditions apply:

- The unit itself contains a fuel-burning appliance (like a furnace or water heater) or a fireplace.
- The unit is located directly above, below, or beside a service room.
- The unit is located directly above, below, or beside a garage.
- The unit is heated by air coming from a fuel-burning appliance that is not contained within the unit (i.e., heat from a furnace in a central service room).

Placement within the unit:

- Adjacent to each sleeping area (i.e., near all bedrooms).
- On every storey (floor) of the unit, including storeys that do not have a sleeping area.

2. Service Rooms and Common Areas of the Building

- A CO alarm must be installed in each service room or area of the building that contains a fuel-burning appliance.

Who is responsible?

In **Owner-Occupied** homes, the **Homeowner** is responsible for complying with the CO alarm requirements in the Fire Code.

In **Rental Homes**, the **Landlord** is responsible for complying with the CO alarm requirements in the Fire Code.

Buying and Installing

CO alarms should have the logo of a recognized standards testing agency to ensure they meet Canadian performance standards.

Some examples of recognized standards testing agencies and their logos include:

- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC)
- Intertek (ETL)



Under the Fire Code, carbon monoxide alarms are permitted to be:

- Hardwired (connected directly to an electrical system).
- Battery-operated (portable or permanently mounted).
- Plug-in devices (plugs into a standard electrical outlet).

Note: Many devices available are combined units that include **both** a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm in one device.

Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and placement of CO alarms. For questions about CO alarm requirements that may apply to your home, contact your local fire department as the authority responsible for enforcing the [Fire Code](#) in your area.

