

Ontario Fire Code Regulations: Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

Effective January 1st, 2026

Where does this apply?

The updated requirements apply to all existing homes that have any of the following:

- A fuel-burning appliance (like a furnace, water heater, or stove that uses natural gas, propane, oil, or wood).
- A fireplace.
- An attached garage.
- **Effective January 1st, 2026:** Air for heating that comes from a fuel-burning appliance not contained within the home (i.e., an appliance in a utility shed).

Common types of homes include:

- Detached or Semi-Detached Houses
- Townhouses
- Cottages

Where must I put the alarms?

If your home meets any of the conditions above, you must install a CO alarm in these two locations:

- Adjacent to each sleeping area (near all bedrooms).
- **Effective January 1st, 2026:** On every storey (floor) of your home, including storeys that do not have a sleeping area.

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.

