

Required Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Effective January 1, 2008 the Residential Code of New York State requires that when a Level 1 Alteration occurs within a single family residence or multiply dwelling a carbon monoxide detector shall be installed.

Alteration Level 1: Includes the removal or replacement of any equipment utilizing solid or liquid fuels such as gas, oil, wood and pellets. Such equipment shall include but not limited to: Furnace, boiler, water heater, fireplace, fireplace insert, gas logs, wood/gas/pellet stove.

What is Carbon Monoxide? Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, toxic gas that is not readily detectable by people. Carbon Monoxide is produced by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels – gas, oil, coal and wood used in boilers, furnaces, stoves and fireplaces.

Carbon Monoxide poisons by entering the lungs through normal breathing and displaces the oxygen in the bloodstream. The concentration level of CO in the air and the exposure time determines the effects the poison has on the human body. Symptoms include headache, dizziness, nausea, drowsiness, convulsions, unconsciousness and even death. Infants and small children, elderly, persons suffering from health problems and even pets are more susceptible to CO poisoning more quickly than a healthy adult.

Early detection of Carbon Monoxide is the only way to alert you to increasingly dangerous levels of CO before tragedy strikes.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

- Within each dwelling unit on any story having a sleeping area.
- On any story of a dwelling unit where fuel-fired appliances and equipment, solid-fuel burning appliances and equipment, fireplaces or attached garages are located.

When more than one carbon monoxide alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit, the alarms shall be interconnected so that when one alarm activates all the CO alarms will sound. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

Exception: carbon monoxide alarms are not required to be interconnected when permitted to be battery operated.

Power Source: In new construction carbon monoxide alarms shall be hard wired into the primary power source of the building. In a building undergoing a repair, alteration, change of occupancy, addition or relocation carbon monoxide alarms are permitted to be battery operated.

All carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed and labeled to UL 2034 or CAN/CSA 6.19 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Prohibited locations: Carbon Monoxide alarms shall not be located within or near the openings to garages, bathrooms or furnace rooms.