

Answers to Questions about the new Carbon Monoxide Alarm Law

Do I need to buy a Carbon Monoxide detector ?

If your residence has NO Carbon Monoxide source within it or attached to it you DO NOT need to purchase a detector.

If you have a fuel or gas fired furnace or water heater, gas stove, fire place or woodstove, kerosene heater, gas dryer, attached garage with cars, lawnmowers, snowblowers, etc. then you **MUST** purchase and install a Carbon Monoxide detector.

What kind of Carbon Monoxide detector can I install ?

If your home was built before January 1, 2008 you can purchase and install a battery operated, or direct plug in, or cord type detector.

It is recommended to purchase one that plugs in and also has a battery back-up.

For homes built after January 1, 2008 detectors must be hard wired into the electrical system and have a battery backup, and if there are more than one, they must be interconnected.

Where should I install the detector ?

CO is almost identical in weight to air and thus mixes freely in it.

For this reason, alarms may be installed at any level in a room.

If the detector is being mounted on a ceiling, it should be installed away from existing smoke alarms in order to be able to distinguish between the CO and smoke alarms in an emergency.

Every home should be equipped with at least one CO alarm near the sleeping area. For maximum protection, additional alarms should be located on each level of your home.

Where can't I install a detector ?

Carbon monoxide alarms shall not be located within or near the openings to garages, bathrooms or furnace rooms.

Carbon monoxide alarms shall also not be located in or near locations specified as 'prohibited,' 'not recommended' or the like in the manufacturer's installation instructions.