

Government Programs and Regulations

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Summary

As of April 15, 2015, carbon monoxide detectors have become mandatory in all Ontario homes. To protect Ontarians from carbon monoxide poisoning, the province now requires carbon monoxide detectors near all sleeping areas in residential homes, and in service rooms (such as boiler rooms and garbage rooms) and next to sleeping areas in multi-residential units.

Details

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous, odorless gas which is produced as a by-product of combustion when common fuel-burning appliances and equipment that use natural gas, oil, wood, propane and kerosene, don't get enough air to burn up completely. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be deadly. Carbon monoxide can build up, especially in confined spaces, and can lead to toxic effects.

Most Ontario households have around 4–6 carbon monoxide producing appliances such as a furnace, portable generator and gas fireplace.

Carbon monoxide detectors must now be near all sleeping areas in residential homes, and in service rooms (such as boiler rooms and garbage rooms) and next to sleeping areas in multi-residential units. Carbon monoxide safety tips from the Technical Standards & Safety Authority:

- Ensure at least one CSA approved carbon monoxide detector is outside the bedrooms. However, it is advised to install one on every floor.
- Alarms need to be replaced every 7–10 years depending on the brand. Check the expiry date of existing detectors and replace any devices built before 2008.
- Have a licensed technician inspect your fuel burning appliances (e.g., furnace, range, fireplace, water heater annually, to ensure they are in proper working order and vented correctly.
- Replace the batteries in your detectors annually, or opt for models with 10-year sealed lithium batteries that never need to be changed.
- When a detector sounds, make sure everyone is out of the house and call 911. Exposure to carbon monoxide reduces a person's ability to think clearly, so don't delay clearing out.

For more information on carbon monoxide and safety tips, please visit, <http://www.cosafety.ca/> and <http://news.ontario.ca/mcscs/en/2014/10/carbonmonoxide-safety---backgrounder.html>

Note: This information is provided as a guide. The Toronto Real Estate Board assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of this information. Please check with the individual municipality or region regarding specific by-law.