

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide (CO) gas is known as a *Silent Killer*. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of CO when they malfunction or are not ventilated properly. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. Symptoms of CO poisoning can mimic the flu. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. The only way to detect carbon monoxide in your home is with a CO alarm.

As per the Vancouver Fire By-law, effective May 2017, every new and existing dwelling unit in the City will need to have CO alarms installed, if the dwelling unit or building:

- has an attached garage, or
- has a fuel-fired (natural gas, fuel oil, diesel) appliance such as a furnace, hot water tank, stove, fireplace, etc. or
- shares a common floor or wall with a parking garage, or a service room containing a fuel-fired appliance.



CO alarms may be battery-powered, or electrically plugged-in type, or hard-wired. They must be CSA listed. They can be as low as \$50 each. Many retailers also carry combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. These alarms may look like smoke alarms and be mounted on the ceiling.

If hard-wired or electrically plugged-in type, ensure the CO alarm is not connected to an electrical circuit that has an on/off switch, other than at the circuit-breaker.

Where a dwelling unit requires a CO alarm, the CO alarm must be installed either:

- Inside each bedroom, or
- Outside each bedroom within 5 m of the bedroom door, measured following corridors and doorways.

The manufacturer's instructions are to be followed for the height of installation of the device. In the absence of manufacturer's instructions, they are to be installed on or within 150 mm of the ceiling.

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