



Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Bulletin 51

Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2018 I-Codes

This bulletin is designed to provide guidance for the installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors in new and existing dwellings.

When Required:

- All new construction of dwellings.
- Alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit *and* on the interior of the building.
- Addition of new bedrooms, inside of or in addition to a dwelling's original footprint.
- New installation or replacement of fuel-burning plumbing or mechanical appliances.
- All existing dwellings first legally occupied or sold *after* July 26, 2009.

Exempt - The following does not trigger CO detector installation:

- Exterior work such as decks, re-roofing and re-siding.
- Replacement of windows and doors (same for same).
- Electrical work or installation or replacement of electric powered (non-fuel) plumbing or mechanical appliances.

Locations:

- Outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity.
Note: This is also the location of a required Smoke Detector. Typically, this will be one unit with both smoke and CO detection.
- On each level of the dwelling.
Note: This is required for floors that do not already have CO detectors, such as finished daylight basements without bedrooms.

Power Source:

- Hardwired with a battery back-up.
- If commercial power is not available, battery only is acceptable.
- Hardwiring is not required in existing dwellings where installation would result in removal of the wall or ceiling, unless there is an *attic*, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring without removing interior finishes.

Interconnection:

- Multiple devices installed must be interconnected, so that when one is triggered, all alarms sound.
- If hardwire interconnection is not feasible, listed wireless connectivity is acceptable.

Additional Information

- Smoke Detector Alarms in new and existing dwelling units are also required. Refer to Pierce County Bulletin 35 and International Residential Code Section R314 for more information.

