

# CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code, Maple Grove City ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the permit applicant. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

Carbon monoxide alarms are required by the Minnesota Building Code in new construction including one-family dwelling units, each unit in a two-family dwelling unit, and in each townhouse dwelling unit where one or both conditions exist:

- The dwelling unit contains a fuel-fired appliance and/or
- The dwelling unit has an attached garage with an opening that communicates with the dwelling unit

Existing dwelling units that undergo alterations, repairs, and/or additions shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms located as required for new dwellings when:

- The alterations, repairs or additions require a building permit, including window and door replacement
- One or more sleeping rooms are added or created within the existing dwelling

Exceptions include: exterior work limited to roofing and siding replacement, addition of an open porch or deck or chimney repair do not require the addition of carbon monoxide alarms, nor does the installation, alteration, or repair of plumbing, electrical, or mechanical systems.

Carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units must be installed outside of and not more than 10 ft from each separate sleeping areas. Alarms are required on each floor containing sleeping areas. If there is a fuel-burning appliance within the bedroom or its attached bathroom, an alarm shall be installed within the bedroom.

The Minnesota Building Code permits either single station alarms or approved systems.

In addition to the Building Code requirements for CO alarms, there is also a state statute passed by the Minnesota Legislature that applies to all dwellings in the state. It is more restrictive than the state building code. It requires **all** dwellings regardless of age and construction activity to have carbon monoxide alarms. The statute has some unique requirements that differ from the Building Code. CO alarms are required whether or not a permit is ever obtained. The statute requires CO alarms in all dwellings even if there are no fuel burning appliances or attached garages. Also, the statute only recognizes single station detectors and not systems.