

CITY OF MILPITAS

Building Safety & Housing
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CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS/DETECTION

The Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Senate Bill – SB 183) required all existing single-family homes with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide alarms within the home by July 1, 2011. All other types of residences, such as apartment buildings, condominiums, etc. had until January 1, 2013 to comply with the law.

Additionally, per Health and Safety Code Section 17926, all existing dwellings shall be provided with carbon monoxide (CO) devices per the California Building Codes.



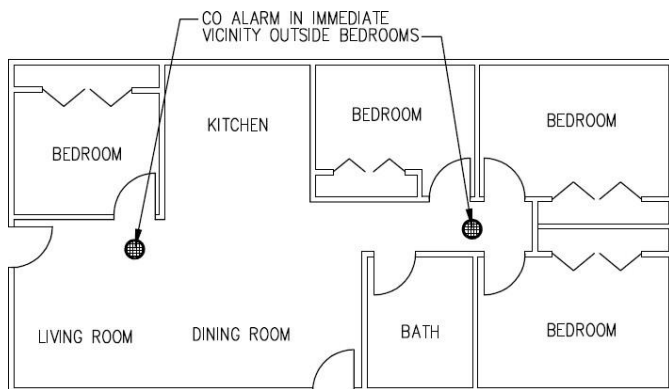
Which homes need to have CO alarms?

The requirements apply if **any** of the following conditions are present within an existing, altered, repaired, remodeled, or new construction dwelling:

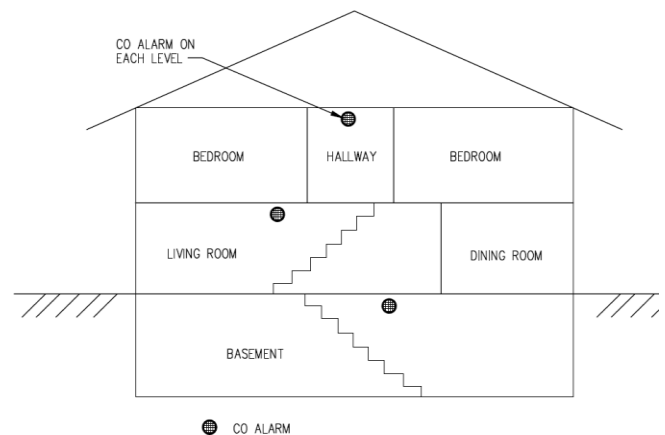
- Attached garage with opening communicating with the interior of the dwelling unit.
- Any fuel-burning appliances or fireplaces (wood, natural gas, propane, etc.) existing or newly installed.

Where should CO alarms be installed?

- In the immediate vicinity outside each sleeping area or bedroom, **and**
- On each level of the home including basement, **and**
- Where a fuel burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a CO alarm shall be installed within the bedroom.



LOCATION OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM WITHIN A RESIDENCE



Each CO alarm shall be located as specified in the manufacturer's published installation instructions that accompany the device. CO alarms shall be located and mounted so that accidental operation will not be caused by jarring or vibration and shall be supported independently of their attachment to wiring.

Should I replace the existing smoke alarm with the CO alarm?

You may replace, the requirement of CO alarm is in addition to any smoke alarms already installed. If the home-owner desires to install a combined CO and smoke alarm it is permitted, provided the device is listed and approved by the California Office of State Fire Marshal @ <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/fire-engineering-and-investigations/building-materials-listing/bml-search-building-materials-listing> . Select 5276 (CO Alarms) or 5278 (CO Detectors) from the "Category" dropdown list, pick "Company" and hit the "Search" button.

Can I use stand-alone battery powered CO alarm?

Yes, CO alarms may be battery powered or plugin style with battery backup in existing homes per exceptions. However, when remodel or addition to an existing building requires the removal of the interior wall or ceiling finishes, or there is access by means of an attic, basement, or crawl space, the new CO and smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring, be interconnected to other alarms, and be provided with a battery backup.