

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

### WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)?

CO is a highly toxic gas. It is the product of the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, gasoline, wood and coal. The major sources of CO in homes and apartments are fossil fuel burning boilers, furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces and parking garages. CO is very dangerous because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating. **CO poisoning can be fatal.** The warning signs of CO poisoning are headaches, dizziness, tiredness and nausea.

### WHAT DOES NEW YORK CITY'S NEW LAW REQUIRE?

Local Law 7/2004 requires the installation of CO detectors (alarms) in all new and existing one- and two-family houses, apartment buildings and hotels. However, some units in buildings without fossil fuel burning furnaces or boilers may be exempt (see DOB regulations on [www.NYC.gov/buildings](http://www.NYC.gov/buildings) for more info). CO detectors are also required in dormitories, nursing homes, and schools.

### WHEN MUST THE DETECTORS BE INSTALLED?

All detectors must be installed by November 1, 2004. Under limited circumstances, the Department of Buildings' borough offices may grant time extensions until June 30, 2005. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis. Visit [www.NYC.gov/buildings](http://www.NYC.gov/buildings) for more information about the extension process.

### WHAT TYPES OF CO DETECTORS ARE REQUIRED?

Approved CO detectors must be marked "UL 2034." For existing buildings, CO detectors can be battery-operated, or can plug into an electrical outlet as long as it has a battery back-up in case of power interruption. New buildings or substantially improved buildings must have detectors that are hard-wired to the building's electrical systems. The installation of a combination smoke alarm/CO detector is allowed.



Hard-Wired



Battery Operated  
9 Volt and AA



Plug-In  
Easy Installation

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### WHERE SHOULD THE CO DETECTORS BE INSTALLED?

CO detectors must be installed within 15 feet of the primary entrance of each bedroom. CO detectors do not have to be installed on or near the ceiling. They can be installed at other room locations and at heights recommended by the manufacturer. To ensure proper operation, do not install CO detectors next to bathrooms, which are sources of humidity, or near gas stoves, gas dryers, etc. Detectors should not be placed in areas likely to be damaged by children or pets.



Carbon Monoxide Detector



Combination Carbon Monoxide &  
Smoke Alarm Detector

For more information about CO detector (alarm) requirements and rules, visit the New York City Department of Buildings at [www.NYC.gov/buildings](http://www.NYC.gov/buildings) and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development at [www.NYC.gov/hpd](http://www.NYC.gov/hpd).



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, Commissioner

A Public Safety Message from  
The New York City Department of Buildings