



Carbon Monoxide Alarm Law

Revised Code of Washington [19.27.530](#) requires CO alarms in existing residences by January 1, 2013, with the exception of owner-occupied homes.

State-adopted 2012 International Fire Code, amended by Washington Administrative Code 51-54A, states that *“Group I or Group R occupancies shall be provided with single station carbon monoxide alarms installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units or sleeping units and on each level of the dwelling. The carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 720-2012 and the manufacturer’s instructions.”*

EXCEPTIONS:

1. For other than R-2 occupancies, the building does not contain a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage; or
2. Sleeping units or dwelling units in I and R-1 occupancies and R-2 college dormitories, hotel, and DSHS licensed boarding home and residential treatment facility occupancies which do not themselves contain a fuel-burning appliance or a fuel-burning fireplace, or have an attached garage, need not be provided with carbon monoxide alarms, provided that (a) The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is not adjacent to any room which contains a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage; and (b) the sleeping

unit or dwelling unit is not connected by duct work or ventilation shafts with a supply or return register in the same room to any room containing a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage; and (c) The building is provided with a common area carbon monoxide detection system.

3. An open parking garage, as defined in Chapter 2 of the International Building Code, or enclosed parking garage ventilated in accordance with Section 404 of the International Mechanical Code, shall not be considered an attached garage.

Please look at the reverse side for a description of each of the exceptions and the requirements.

BASIC INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS (FROM NFPA 720 2012 Edition)

Carbon monoxide warning equipment shall be installed in accordance with the listing and manufacturer’s published instructions.

Carbon monoxide alarms or detectors shall be installed as follows:

1. Outside of each separate dwelling unit sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
2. On every occupiable level of a dwelling unit, including basements, excluding attics and crawl spaces.
3. Other locations where required by applicable laws, codes, or standards.

Each alarm or detector shall be located on the wall ceiling or other locations as specified in the manufacturer’s published instructions that accompany the unit.

ENFORCEMENT

Local code officials will check for compliance with the CO alarm installation requirements when a permit is required for new construction and most alterations, repairs, or additions.

If you have questions regarding the code, please contact your **local jurisdiction** (Building Department or Fire Department) or the **State Building Code Council**.

If you are licensed facility, please contact the **State Fire Marshal’s Office**.

If you are a licensed facility and looking at adding carbon monoxide detection to your current system, please contact **Department of Health Construction Review** first.

Washington State Building Code Council
1500 Jefferson Avenue SE
PO Box 41449
Olympia WA 98504-1449
(360) 407-9280

**Department of Health
Construction Review Services**
PO Box 47852
Olympia WA 98504-7852
(360) 236-2944

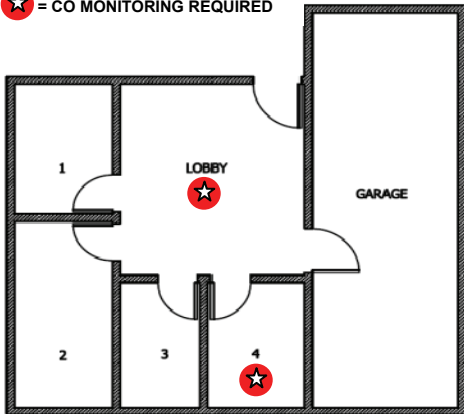
State Fire Marshal’s Office
PO Box 42600
Olympia WA 98504-2600
(360) 596-3911



Carbon Monoxide Alarm Law

Example 1

★ = CO MONITORING REQUIRED

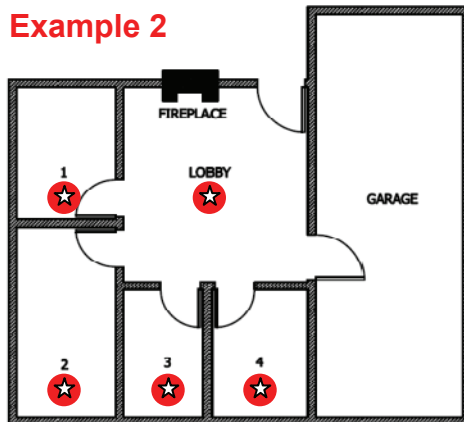


1. ROOM 4 FAILS - ADJACENT TO GARAGE.

Conditions: Bedroom and lobby are adjacent to garage.

Requirements: Common area (lobby) and bedroom #4 are required to have carbon monoxide detectors.

Example 2

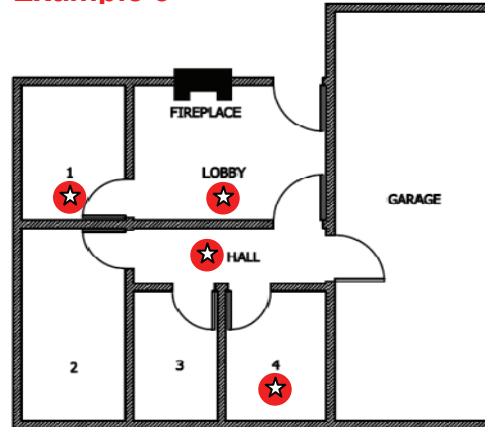


2. ROOMS 1, 2, 3, AND 4 FAIL - ADJACENT TO ROOM WITH FIREPLACE.

Conditions: Sleeping units are adjacent to corridor or common area with carbon monoxide detector installed outside of bedroom location.

Requirements: All rooms require carbon monoxide detectors.

Example 3



3. ROOM 1 FAILS - ADJACENT TO ROOM WITH FIREPLACE.
 ROOM 4 FAILS - ADJACENT TO GARAGE.

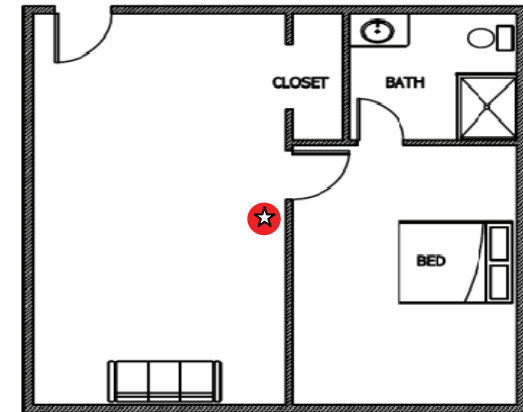
Conditions:

1. Attached garage is adjacent to common area, corridor, and adjacent bedroom.
2. Bedroom #1 is adjacent to common area with fireplace.

Requirements: Common area-lobby; bedroom #1 adjacent to common area with fireplace; Corridor adjacent to garage and common area with fireplace; and bedroom #4 adjacent to garage - **Yes, carbon monoxide detection required to be installed to all above. BUT** Bedrooms #2 & 3, **no, not required** because not adjacent.

Example 4

CORRIDOR OR COMMON AREA



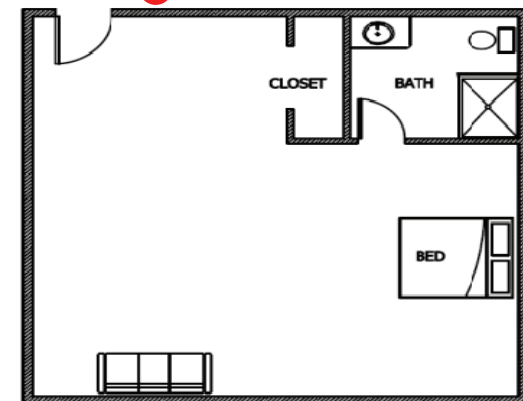
DWELLING UNIT

Conditions: Bedroom is adjacent to a common area (living area).

Requirements: Common area beside bedroom is required to have carbon monoxide detector.

Example 5

★ CORRIDOR OR COMMON AREA



SLEEPING UNIT

Conditions: Sleeping unit is adjacent to corridor or common area.

Requirements: Carbon monoxide detector shall be installed outside of bedroom location.

