

What extent of construction, alteration, repair or addition triggers the requirement for carbon monoxide (CO) alarm installation in existing single family and duplex dwellings?

*Code: Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC), 2017 Edition, Sec. R315 (excerpts)*

For new construction, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in dwelling units. R315.2.1

Where a new carbon monoxide source is introduced or work requiring a structural permit occurs in existing dwellings, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided. R315.2.2

**Exception:** Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, is exempt.

**ORSC Sec. R315.3** Carbon monoxide alarms shall be located in each bedroom **or** within 15 feet outside of each bedroom door. Bedrooms on separate floor levels in a structure consisting of two or more stories shall have separate carbon monoxide alarms serving each story. Where a fuel burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed within the bedroom.

**ORSC Sec. R315.5** Carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring where such wiring is served from a commercial source and, where primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

**Exceptions:**

1. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated where installed in buildings without commercial power.
2. Carbon monoxide alarms installed in existing

buildings shall be permitted to be battery powered.

**3.** Interconnection and hard wiring of combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms in existing areas shall not be required where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.

**ORSC Sec. R315.6** Carbon monoxide detection systems may be used in lieu of carbon monoxide alarms if:

1. Household carbon monoxide detection systems shall comply with NFPA 720. Carbon monoxide detectors shall be listed in accordance with UL 2075.
2. Detectors are installed in the same locations as previously noted.
3. Where a household carbon monoxide detection system is installed, it shall become a permanent fixture of the occupancy and owned by the homeowner.
4. Combination carbon monoxide and smoke detectors shall be permitted to be installed in carbon monoxide detection systems in lieu of carbon monoxide detectors, provided that they are listed in accordance with UL 2075 and UL 268.