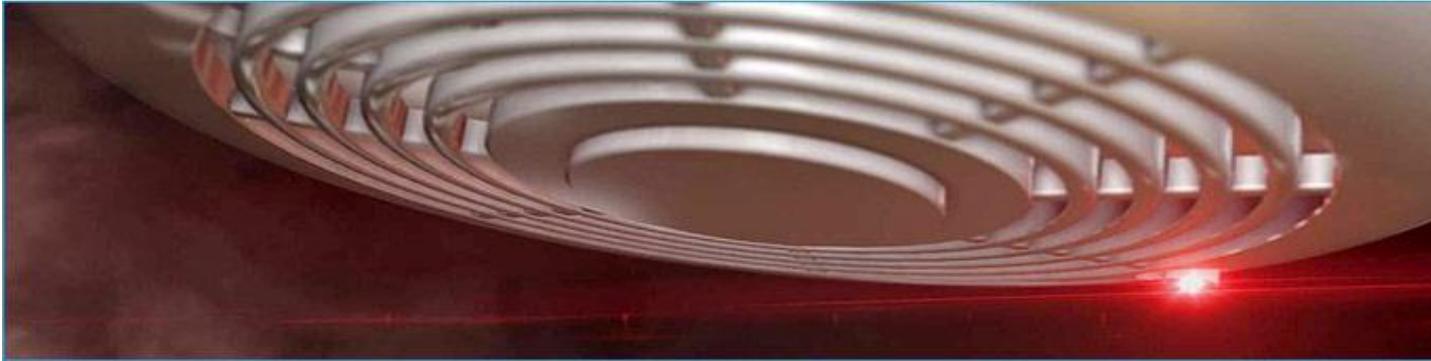


THE HAWKINS-GIGNAC ACT



Carbon monoxide detectors are mandatory in all concerned homes or businesses in Ontario.

Since the implementation on October 15, 2014 of the new provincial law; Act 18, also known as the Hawkins-Gignac Act, carbon monoxide alarm detectors must be installed just outside sleeping areas if your home has a garage, a fuel-burning appliance or a fireplace.

The Act is named in honour of the Hawkins-Gignac family from Woodstock, whose four members were killed in 2008 due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Their home was not equipped with detectors.

This odourless and colourless gas kills about 50 Canadians each year. Carbon monoxide is very dangerous as you can't see it, taste it or smell it. Symptoms of carbon monoxide intoxication are similar to those of gastroenteritis, including headaches, nausea, fatigue and dizziness. It can prove lethal in low concentration in the air. It is produced when combustibles (gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely.

If you suspect the presence of carbon monoxide in your home, immediately get out and dial 9-1-1.

The Hawkins-Gignac Act updates the **Ontario Fire Code*** by enshrining the obligation to install carbon monoxide alarm detectors in houses, condos, apartments, buildings, hotels and university residences equipped with fuel-burning appliances such as a **fireplace, gas stove, water heater or furnace**. It must be installed **on each storey, outside sleeping areas**, as well as in all **housing units**, including **cabins** and **seasonal dwellings**. All buildings with a **garage** are covered under the Act. Vehicles or generators running inside an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

The residents or owners of buildings who violate the law will be fined \$235.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Owners of buildings with six units or less have until April 15, 2015 to comply with the provisions of the Code, and those with buildings of more than six units have until October 15, 2015. For all properties built after 2011, it was required to install a detector during construction.

BEING VIGILANT, BEING SAFE!

Test your CO alarm detectors **at least once a month** and replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you must use a generator, always do it outside, in a well-ventilated area, away from windows, doors and air vents. Each year, have the heating appliances, fireplaces, and any other fuel-burning equipment, such as dryers and gas stoves, inspected and cleaned. Choose an alarm bearing the label of a recognized testing laboratory and take the time to read the manufacturer's instructions provided with the detector. Carbon monoxide easily mixes with indoor air. For this reason, it is advised to install the alarm in a central location, near the bedrooms and on each storey of the house. It is important to avoid hiding it with furniture or window coverings. This alarm operates properly regardless of its height; however, follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning the installation and recommended height. To ensure optimal prevention, link all alarms in such a way that the first one triggers the others. Regularly check the proper functioning of the detector. Keep it clean, free of dust and debris that can cause a malfunction. The manufacturer's manual should indicate how to verify your detector.

LOCATION WHERE TO AVOID INSTALLING A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM DETECTOR

Do not install carbon monoxide alarm detectors when the temperature can drop below 4.4°C, such as an unheated garage or a shed. Also, avoid installing a detector within five feet of any open-flame appliance such as a cooking range, fireplace or heating appliance, and make sure it is not directly exposed to the exhaust gas from a gas appliance, vent, chimney flue or fireplace that would damage it.

Look for ULC or CSA-certified products. Approved products are battery operated, use electricity (in which case they can be plugged into a duplex outlet) or wiring.