

Smoke & CO Alarm Maintenance Information for Households



Disabling a Smoke Alarm or a CO alarm, and failing to notify the housing provider of any problem with the Smoke Alarm or CO Alarm is a Provincial Offence and is subject to a fine and/or legal proceeding. It may also result in your eviction.

The Ontario Fire Code requires that every place of residence have smoke alarms installed and kept in working condition. Smoke alarms are very important for the safety of you and your neighbors by giving early warning of fire. Your housing provider is responsible for installing smoke alarms and keeping them in working condition, including testing, repairs and replacement as necessary. Your housing provider must also act to correct any problem or concern you report about the operation of your smoke alarm.

For your protection, you are encouraged to take part in ensuring that the smoke alarms and CO alarms are operational and to co-operate with the housing provider in carrying out the necessary testing and maintenance.

Here are some steps that you can take:

- If your suite has a Carbon Monoxide CO Alarm, test it monthly by pressing and holding the test button for at least 5 seconds. If the CO alarm chirps intermittently – this is not an emergency – this is indicating a fault or low battery with the CO alarm unit.
- Test the smoke alarm monthly by holding the test button for a least 5 seconds.
- If the smoke alarm activates accidentally due to the oven or toaster, press the HUSH button (if available) or wave a towel under the alarm to silence it. Do not disable or remove the battery.
- Notify the landlord when the low battery signal is activated (on battery operated smoke alarms or CO alarms only) and plan for replace of the battery.
- Notify the housing provider if the “power on” indicator goes out (on electrically wired smoke alarms and CO alarms only) and call immediately for appropriate repairs.
- Notify the housing provider if the smoke alarm or CO alarm is damaged and plan for the immediate repair or replacement of the unit.
- Notify the housing provider of any electrical problems that may affect the operability of electrically wire smoke alarms, CO alarms or operability of the plug-in CO alarms.

Your unit has been provided with a smoke alarm that is Battery Operated / Hard Wired

Your unit has been provided with a CO alarm that is Battery Operated / Hard Wired