



Install a carbon  
monoxide alarm  
on every level  
of your home.

**Introduction:** A new law went into effect on January 1, 2017. It requires Nebraska homes to have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in all new and existing single family and multi-family homes upon sale, transfer, or change of tenant. Alarms are also required when homeowners make structural changes to the home, or install or repair fuel-fired appliances.

**Why Did the Nebraska Legislature Pass the Law?** The National Institutes of Health ranked Nebraska as having one of the highest CO poisoning rates in the country. Most CO poisonings occur in our state's harsh winters because families use fuel-fired heating appliances, generators and fireplaces. CO is colorless and odorless. CO reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood cells which can cause death and serious health effects. Having working alarms will help you recognize when the gas is present and limit the risk of exposure, illness and death. Small children, senior citizens and pregnant moms are especially vulnerable to CO poisoning.

**When Did the Law Go into Effect?** The law went into effect on January 1, 2017. The bill, [LB 34](#), was championed by Senator Sara Howard (D-District 9) and it was signed into law by Gov. Pete Ricketts.

**What Does the New Law Say?** *Rental property:* Landlords are required to install alarms at the first change in occupancy on or after January 1, 2017. Prior to the start of a new tenant occupancy, landlords will replace missing, stolen or non-working alarms found after the previous occupancy. Landlords will supply tenants with batteries to keep the alarm(s) working at the time they take residence in the unit and fix any deficiencies in an alarm if notified by a tenant.

*Real Property:* Sellers of single-family dwellings offered for sale or transfer after January 1, 2017 with a fuel fired-heater or appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage will need to install alarms on every habitable level of the home. Owners making structural changes to their home will need to install alarms in every habitable floor where interior changes are made. Alarms will also be required when homeowners repair, replace or install a fuel-fired appliance.

**Where Should the CO Detectors Be Installed?** According to the new law, they need to be installed on each habitable level of the dwelling or in a location specified in any building code adopted by the state or by the political subdivision in which the dwelling is located.

**Where Can I Find CO Alarms for Purchase?** They can be purchased at hardware and general merchandise stores as well as directly from manufacturers of the alarms. They are also available for purchase on-line. We found a 10-year CO alarm on amazon.com for \$23.94, as of publication of this FAQ.

**Where Can I Learn More About Preventing CO Poisoning?**

- [Nebraska Regional Poison Center](#)
- [First Responders Foundation Omaha](#)
- [CO Education from the National Fire Protection Association](#)
- [CDC's Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Page](#)
- [The Safe Kids CO Poisoning Facts Page](#)