

Scotland's new regulations took effect from 1st October 2013. They require the installation of at least one CO alarm in every space containing a fixed combustion appliance (excluding appliances used solely for cooking), and where a flue passes through high-risk accommodation, such as a bedroom or main living room.

Where to fit a carbon monoxide alarm

- In every room where there is a fuel-burning appliance and ideally in rooms where occupants spend most of their time, e.g. the living room and bedroom
- If the combustion appliance is installed in a non-living space, e.g. boiler room/cupboard, the alarm should be placed just outside this area so it can be heard easily
- A bedroom or principal habitable room, where a flue passes through.

Where should CO alarms be located?

- Unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer, CO alarms should be ceiling-mounted and positioned at least 300mm from any wall, or wall-mounted and positioned at least 150mm below the ceiling and higher than any door or window in the room
- If located in the space containing the combustion appliance, CO alarms should be sited between 1m and 3m from the appliance
- Where the combustion appliance is located in a small space it may not be possible to locate the detector within that space. In such circumstances the detector may be located at the appropriate distance outside the space.

A CO alarm should not be sited:

- In an enclosed space (for example in a cupboard or behind a curtain)
- Directly above a sink
- Next to a door or window
- Next to an extractor fan
- Next to an air vent or similar ventilation opening
- In an area where the temperature may drop below -10°C or exceed 40°C, unless it is designed to do so
- Where dirt and dust may block the sensor
- In a damp or humid location or in the immediate vicinity of a cooking appliance.