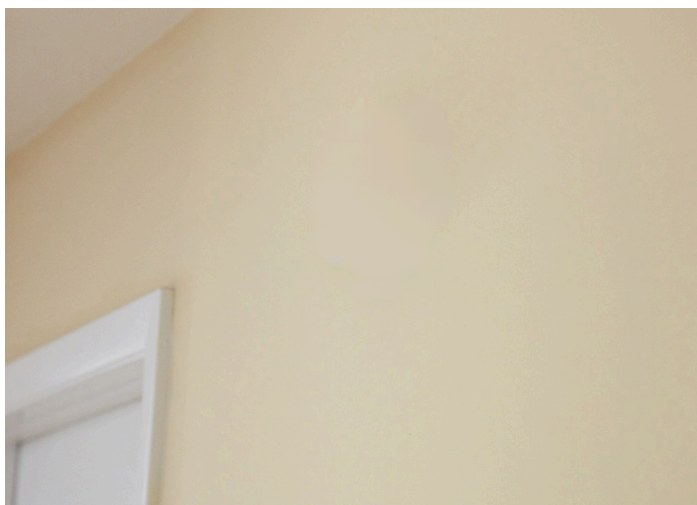


Carbon Monoxide Alarms: BS EN 50291

GUIDE



Mounted Carbon Monoxide Alarm Carbon Monoxide Alarm Not Fitted

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are essential safety devices designed to detect the presence of carbon monoxide gas, which is odorless, colorless, and highly toxic. CO is produced by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels such as gas, oil, coal, and wood. It can be emitted by various fixed combustion appliances found in homes, including boilers, furnaces, water heaters, and fireplaces.

The reason carbon monoxide alarms are required in any room containing fixed combustion appliances, except gas cookers, is primarily due to the potential risks associated with these appliances. Here are a few key reasons:

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: CO is a toxic gas that is odorless and colorless. Alarms help detect its presence, protecting against the risks of poisoning, which can lead to severe symptoms and even death.

Incomplete Combustion: Malfunctioning appliances or inadequate ventilation can result in higher CO levels. Alarms detect potential issues, ensuring early detection and prevention.

Occupant Safety: CO alarms in rooms where people spend time, like bedrooms and living rooms, provide early warning and allow for prompt evacuation in case of high CO levels.

Gas Cookers Exception: Gas cookers produce lower CO levels and are often used in well-ventilated areas for shorter durations, reducing the need for alarms. However, proper maintenance and ventilation are still important.

In summary, installing carbon monoxide alarms in rooms with fixed combustion appliances (except gas cookers) is crucial for early detection of potentially lethal carbon monoxide gas. By doing so, occupants can be alerted to any hazardous levels, allowing them to take appropriate actions to safeguard their well-being.

