



# WATER-CONSERVING PLUMBING FIXTURES AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ADVISORY

(C.A.R. Form WCMD, Revised 6/24)

Douglas Elliman

## 1. WATER-CONSERVING PLUMBING FIXTURES

### A. INSTALLATION:

- (1) **Requirements:** California law (Civil Code §§ 1101.4 and 1101.5) requires all single-family residences, multi-family and commercial property built on or before January 1, 1994 to be equipped with water-conserving plumbing fixtures. Additionally, a residential and commercial property built on or before January 1, 1994 that is altered or improved is required to be equipped with water-conserving plumbing fixtures as a condition of final approval if the alteration or improvement increases floor area space by more than 10 percent, or has a cost greater than \$150,000, or for any room in a building which requires a building permit.
- (2) **Exceptions:** These requirements do not apply to (i) registered historical sites, (ii) real property for which a licensed plumber certified that, due to the age or configuration of the property or its plumbing, installation of water-conserving plumbing fixtures is not technically feasible, or (iii) a building for which water service is permanently disconnected. Additionally, there is a one-year exemption for any building slated for demolition, and any city or county that has adopted a retrofit requirement prior to 2009 is itself exempt. (Civil Code §§1101.6, 1101.7, and 1101.9.)

B. **Disclosure of Water-Conserving Plumbing Fixtures:** Although the installation of water-conserving plumbing fixtures is not a point-of-sale requirement, California Civil Code §§ 1101.4 (single family properties beginning 2017) and 1101.5 (multifamily and commercial properties beginning 2019) require the seller to disclose to the buyer the requirements concerning water-conserving plumbing fixtures and whether the property contains any noncompliant water fixtures.

C. **Noncompliant Water Fixtures:** Noncompliant water fixtures are any of the following: (i) any toilet manufactured to use more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush, (ii) any urinal manufactured to use more than one gallon of water per flush, (iii) any showerhead manufactured to have a flow capacity of more than 2.5 gallons of water per minute, (iv) any interior faucet that emits more than 2.2 gallons of water per minute. (Civil Code § 1101.3.) Buyer and Seller are each advised to consult with their own home inspector or contractor to determine if any water fixture is noncompliant. Buyer is advised to investigate the cost to bring any noncompliant water fixtures into compliance before removing the investigation contingency.

## 2. CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

### A. INSTALLATION:

- (1) **Requirements:** As of January 1, 2013, California law (Health and Safety Code §§ 13260 to 13263 and 17926 to 17926.2) has required the following types of dwelling units intended for human occupancy have carbon monoxide detectors installed: single-family dwellings, duplex, lodging house, dormitory, hotel, condominium, time-share and apartment, among others.
- (2) **Exceptions:** The law does not apply to a dwelling unit which does not have any of the following: a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage. The law does not apply to dwelling units owned or leased by the State of California, the Regents of the University of California or local government agencies. Aside from these three owner types, there are **no other owner exemptions** from the installation requirement; it applies to all owners of dwellings, be they individual banks, corporations, or other entities. There is no exemption for REO properties.

B. **DISCLOSURE OF CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:** The Health and Safety Code does not require a disclosure regarding the existence of carbon monoxide detectors in a dwelling. However, a seller of residential 1-4 property who is required to complete a Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement, (C.A.R. Form TDS) or a Manufactured Home and Mobilehome Transfer Disclosure Statement (C.A.R. Form MHTDS) must use section II A of that form to disclose whether or not the dwelling unit has a carbon monoxide detector.

C. **COMPLIANCE WITH INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT:** State building code requires at a minimum, placement of carbon monoxide detectors in applicable properties outside of each sleeping area, and on each floor in a multi-level dwelling but additional or different requirements may apply depending on local building standards and manufacturer instructions. An owner who fails to install a carbon monoxide detector when required by law and continues to fail to install the detector after being given notice by a governmental agency could be liable for a fine for each violation. A transfer of a property where a seller, as an owner, has not installed carbon monoxide detectors, when required to do so by law, will not be invalidated, but the seller/owner could be subject to damages, plus court costs and attorney fees. Buyer and Seller are each advised to consult with their own home inspector, contractor or building department to determine the exact location for installation of carbon monoxide detectors. Buyer is advised to consult with a professional of Buyer's choosing to determine whether the property has carbon monoxide detector(s) installed as required by law, and if not to discuss with their counsel the potential consequences.

3. **LOCAL REQUIREMENTS:** Some localities maintain their own retrofit or point of sale requirements which may include the requirement that water-conserving plumbing fixtures and/or a carbon monoxide detector be installed prior to a transfer of property. Therefore, it is important to check the local city or county building and safety departments regarding point of sale or retrofit requirements when transferring property.

**By signing below, Buyer and Seller each acknowledge that they have read, understand, and have received a copy of this Water-Conserving Plumbing Fixtures and Carbon Monoxide Detector Advisory**

Seller \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Seller \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/2026

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