
**ONTARIO TO REQUIRE FIRE SPRINKLERS
IN NEW CONDOS AND APARTMENTS**
McGuinty Government Improving Fire Safety Standards

NEWS

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Ontario is increasing the fire-safety of new large residential buildings. Changes to the Building Code will require sprinkler systems in new condos and apartments higher than three storeys.

The changes will come into force on April 1, 2010. Building permit applications for multiple-unit residential buildings higher than three storeys submitted on or after that date must comply with the new fire sprinkler requirements.

Residential fire deaths in Ontario have declined steadily since the Building Code was introduced in 1975, and Ontario has one of the lowest rates of residential fire deaths in Canada.

The changes will bring the Building Code into greater harmony with the model National Building Code of Canada and the codes in force in most Canadian and American jurisdictions.

QUOTES

"We are making our safe buildings even safer. These changes to the Building Code will ensure residents of new high-rises will have the same fire protection as all other jurisdictions in Canada," said Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"The experience of other jurisdictions across North America is clear: residential sprinklers significantly reduce injuries, deaths and property loss due to fire. This requirement is a huge step forward in the protection of citizens of this province from fire," said Pat Burke, Fire Marshal of Ontario

"Ultimately, residential sprinklers will provide a safer working environment for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us," said Linda Jeffrey, MPP for Brampton-Springdale, a long-time advocate for sprinklers in residential settings.

QUICK FACTS

- The Building Code is a regulation under the Building Code Act, 1992. The code applies to the construction of new buildings, and the renovation and change of use of existing buildings.
- The effective date of April 1, 2010 will ensure there are sufficient numbers of trained technicians available to install the newly required sprinkler systems.
- The model National Building Code of Canada is published by the National Research Council of Canada. Provincial and territorial governments, however, are responsible for building regulation and adopt their own codes.

LEARN MORE

Read Ontario's [Building Code website](#).