

November 22, 2024

**Subject: Abiding by the Ontario Fire Code**

Dear Owners/Occupants,

The idea that door wreaths are prohibited can come as a surprise to you, and it has received coverage in the news recently. We mentioned in our Fall 2024 Newsletter that we would seek clarification. We have sought and received clarification from Ottawa Fire Services.

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We have been informed that elevator lobbies are a means of egress. As such, wreaths and decorations are banned from suite condo doors, and exterior door mats are banned from elevator lobby landings. Both are unsafe, one can further ignite a fire, while the other may cause a trip and fall.

The Board expects all owners/occupants to be diligent and abide by the Fire Code requirements, which means that door wreaths, toxic and flammable items on suite condo doors and floor mats in elevator lobby landings are prohibited. If not removed, OCSCC 769 management reserves the right to do so, and to dispose of items that contravene the Fire Code of Ontario.

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Failure to abide by the Fire Code can result in both individuals and OCSCC 769 being fined by the Fire Department. These fines can be fairly hefty, and tend to start at \$50,000. As well, the OCSCC 769 can be fined much higher amounts for not enforcing the Code.

To quote the Barrie, Ontario Fire Department: “The fire service gets a bad rap when it comes to hallway decorations. We aren’t Scrooges. It’s actually based on tragic outcomes.”

OCSCC #769 Board