



BUILDING DEPARTMENT
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SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

IF YOU ARE ONLY UPDATING A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY:

You are required to install battery-powered smoke alarms in the required locations listed below. You may elect to install hard-wired smoke alarms with battery backup.

IF YOU HAVE A BUILDING PERMIT FOR WORK TO YOUR HOME:

You are required to install hard-wired smoke alarms with battery backup in all the required locations listed below if you have an accessible attic and/or basement.

The smoke alarms must be interconnected. Wireless interconnection is approved, but the smoke alarms must still be hard-wired with a battery backup.

An accessible attic is an attic that an individual may climb into and run wires.

An accessible basement is one where the ceiling is not sheetrocked.

You do not have to remove existing wall coverings to install smoke alarms.

In all events, hard-wired smoke alarms with battery backup shall be installed in the work area covered by the building permit if wall coverings are removed in that area.

REQUIRED SMOKE ALARM LOCATIONS FOR ALL HOMES:

(REGARDLESS OF HOW OLD YOUR HOME IS OR WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE DONE ANY WORK)

1. Inside every room that may be used for "sleeping purposes", such as bedrooms.
2. On the ceiling or wall outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
3. On every level, including basements and cellars, but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics.

PLEASE FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOUNTING LOCATIONS. SMOKE ALARMS MAY NOT BE LOCATED WITHIN 4" OF A CORNER. THERE ARE SPECIAL LOCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VAULTED CEILINGS.

PLEASE FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS. NO MOUNTING OF SMOKE ALARMS WITH DUCT TAPE, DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE, HANGING FROM A PICTURE HOOK, ETC

SMOKE ALARMS EMITTING A LOW-BATTERY WARNING WILL FAIL INSPECTION.

EXAMPLES:

1. A building permit to remodel a kitchen is obtained. The two-story house has vaulted ceilings on the second floor and a basement. There is one bedroom on the first floor. The basement is not sheetrocked. You are required to install hard-wired and interconnected smoke alarms with battery backup in the first floor bedroom and outside the first floor bedroom, as well as in the basement. Battery powered smoke alarms may be installed in the required second floor locations.
2. A building permit is obtained for an addition to a single-story house with a crawlspace and an accessible attic. You are required to install hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms with battery backup in all of the required locations.
3. A building permit is obtained to renovate the living room in a one-story home with vaulted ceilings and no basement. You are required to install a hard-wired smoke alarms with battery backup in the addition only. You may install battery powered smoke alarms in the rest of the home.

IN ALL CASES YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REMOVE WALL COVERINGS TO INSTALL HARD-WIRED SMOKE ALARMS, NOR TO INTERCONNECT THEM.