

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms – Remodels and Additions

Planning & Development Services | Building Safety Division

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Smoke Alarms

Where alterations, repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, the permit applicant shall be responsible to upgrade the smoke alarms throughout the dwelling to new dwelling standards.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck.
2. Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems.

Smoke alarms are required in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics and not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwelling units with split-levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
4. Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by this section.

The alarms shall be interconnected so that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the connected devices. Physical interconnection of smoke alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm.

Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be used in lieu of smoke alarms and shall be listed in accordance with [UL 2075](#) and [UL 268](#).

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Where alterations, repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms located as required for new dwellings. For new construction, **an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms** in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages. Where a fuel-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed within the bedroom.

The alarms shall be interconnected so that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the connected devices. Physical interconnection of carbon monoxide alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm.

Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be used in lieu of carbon monoxide alarms and shall be listed in accordance with [UL 2075](#) and [UL 268](#).

Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed shall be permitted to be battery powered.