

**Chester
Building Official
Code Enforcement**

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Smoke Alarms/Carbon Monoxide Alarms – Residential

Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations;

- a) in each sleeping room
- b) outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- c) on each additional story of the dwelling, including basement and cellars but not including crawls spaces and uninhabitable attics.

Additional practices generally place smoke or heat alarms in the following locations:

attic spaces –(smoke or heat detectors) generally heat detectors are installed because the temperatures can fall below 40 degrees F or exceed 100 degrees F

integral and attached garages – (smoke or heat detector) generally heat detectors are installed because of the temperature ranges likely in the garage areas and the increased levels of dust and possible fumes.

In all new construction the alarms are to receive their power from the building's primary wiring – and are to be provided with a battery backup. When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed the alarm shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms. Smoke detectors are required on all levels, including basements but excluding the crawl spaces and unfinished attics.

On-site inspection may require the placement of additional smoke and/or heat detectors based on the determination of compliance to the basic performance criteria established in the codes. Such areas might be rooms with a high ceiling or a cathedral style ceiling separated such that a smoke condition could exist for a period of time so as to pose a delay in the initiating of a smoke detector located in an adjoining space or in other areas when obstructions could effect the viewing path of the detector - (such as large beam/girders in garage areas requiring placement of detectors on both sides of the beams/girder).

Sufficient initiating devices shall be installed within the dwelling unit so that their operation provides adequate egress time before the occurrence of untenable conditions at any point along the normal path of egress for all design fire scenarios specified in applicable codes and any supplementary fire scenarios specified by the authority having jurisdiction.

For alterations, repairs and additions smoke alarms shall be placed as required for new construction. This may require the interconnection and placement of alarms throughout the residence when deemed practical.

Smoke alarms shall not be within 36 inches of bathrooms, HVAC registers, and/or within 36" of the tip of the blades of ceiling fans. Flat ceiling installations are to be no closer than 4" to the wall and for peaked ceilings the detector should be placed within 36 inches of the peak but not closer than 4" of the peak.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are now required for all new construction. Alarms shall be provided outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. It is further suggested that carbon monoxide detectors be provide on each level and as such is required in all new construction. Generally, combination smoke and CO alarms are available to readily make the application of CO detectors easy