

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Hundreds of people accidentally die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning; it is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the United States. Carbon monoxide gas is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, wood, or charcoal is burned. It is odorless, colorless, tasteless, and poisonous.

State law (Health & Safety Code 17926) and the 2013 California Building Code requires carbon monoxide alarms in addition to smoke alarms, or a combination type that can be used to meet both requirements.

When Required

When a building permit is obtained carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in new or existing dwellings that have attached garages or fuel-burning appliances.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Inspection Requirements

Regardless of the type of permit obtained an inspection of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms will be required. The inspector will not be able to final any permit without verifying that the alarms are properly installed and working.

Power Supply

For new construction alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring and shall be equipped with a battery back up. Where more than one alarm is required they shall be interconnected in a manner that activation of one alarm activates all of the alarms.

In existing dwelling units an alarm is permitted to be solely battery powered when the scope of work would not allow for hard wiring.

Location

Alarms are required outside of sleeping areas in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms, and at least one on every level. Do not place a detector in the garage, or near a furnace, stove or fireplace. Detectors should be kept away from windows, corners of rooms and peaks of ceilings. Make sure that you purchase alarms that are approved and certified by a nationally recognized testing institute, and follow the installation instructions.

Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Alarms



Residential Requirements



City of San Bruno

Community Development
Department

Building Division

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Smoke Alarms (Detectors)

Most home fires fatalities occur at night while people are asleep. Every year in the United States over 5,000 people die in house fires. If a fire occurs in your home, your chances of survival are increased by 50% if smoke alarms are installed and working. Smoke alarms can save your life.

Location of required smoke alarms

Smoke alarms shall be installed per California Building Code, and in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Smoke alarms are to be located as listed:

- On each story and in basement.
- In each bedroom. (Even if not used as a sleeping room.)
- Centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to sleeping rooms.
- When sleeping rooms are on an upper floor, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of the upper level in close proximity to the stairway.

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Safety tips

- Don't install smoke alarms near windows or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed in kitchens, bathrooms or garages.
- Replace batteries in your smoke alarms once a year, or as soon as the alarm beeps warning that the battery is low.
- Never borrow a battery from a smoke alarm.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace yours once every ten years.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Inspection Requirements

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Check your alarms **before the inspector arrives for the final!**

- Correct locations
- Working batteries
 - Alkaline last 1 year
 - Lithium last 10 years