
SMOKE ALARM & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

As required by the Minnesota State Residential Building Code

Smoke Detector Requirements

R314.3.1 Alterations, repairs, and additions. An individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings when:

1. Alterations, repairs (including installation or replacement of windows or doors), or additions requiring a permit occur: or
2. One or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition of an open porch or deck, or chimney repairs.
2. Installation, alteration, or repairs of plumbing, electrical, or mechanical systems.

Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

- On every level of your home, including finished attics and basements. *If possible, place these smoke detectors near the bottom of the basement stairway and the top of the second-floor stairway.*
- Inside every bedroom
- Carbon detector outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity (10-foot) of the bedrooms (hallways).

Carbon Monoxide Detection Requirements

The 2006 legislative session passed a new carbon monoxide (CO) law requiring CO alarms in all single-family home and multi-family apartment units. Effective August 1, 2008, all existing single-family homes shall be equipped with approved carbon monoxide alarms. Effective August 1, 2009, all other multi-family or apartment dwelling units shall be provided with approved CO alarms. All carbon monoxide alarms must be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that conforms to the latest Underwriters Laboratories (U/L) Standards.

Every single-family dwelling and every multi-family dwelling unit shall be provided with a minimum of 1 approved and fully operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within 10-foot of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes. If bedrooms are located on separate floors, additional carbon monoxide alarms would be necessary within 10-foot of these areas

Questions? Contact the following

- State Fire Marshall Division: 651-201-7200 or www.fire.state.mn.us
- West St Paul Building Department: 651-552-4116

R315.3 Where work requiring a permit occurs in existing dwellings that have attached garages or in existing dwellings within which fuel-filled appliances exist, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in accordance with Section R315.1.

R315.1.1 Installation. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed outside and not more than 10 feet from each separate sleeping area or bedroom. Alarms shall be installed on each level containing sleeping areas or bedrooms.

**Carbon monoxide is roughly the same weight as air, it neither rises toward the ceiling nor sinks to the floor.*

Detector Life Expectancy

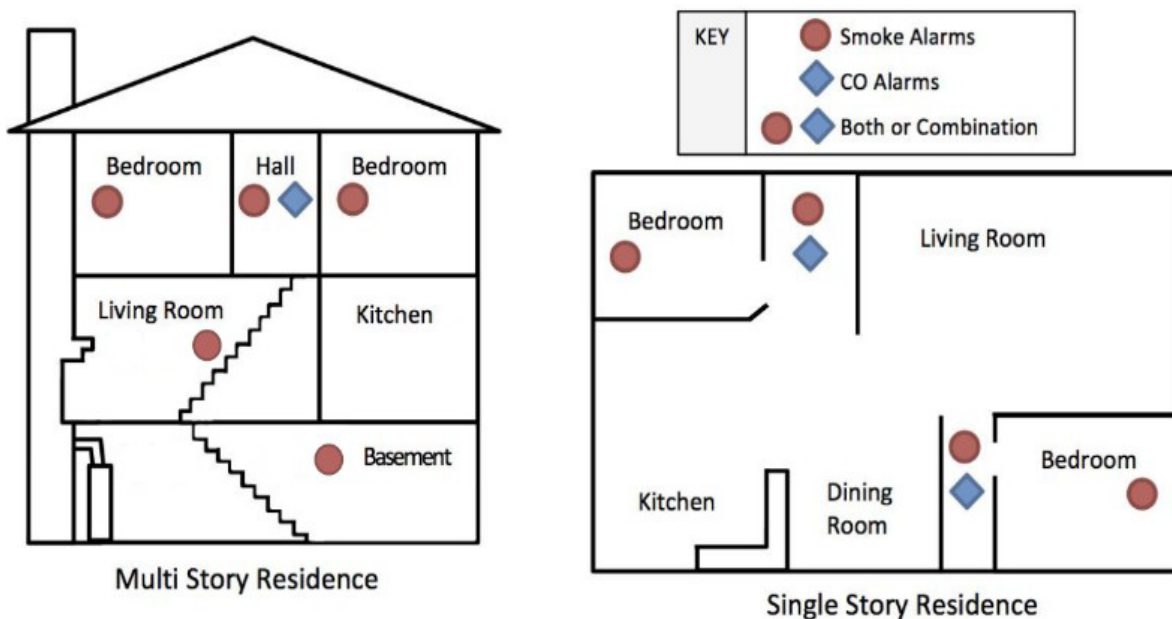
Smoke Detectors: The life expectancy of smoke alarms is generally 10 years, after which point, their sensors can begin to lose sensitivity. The test button only confirms that the battery, electronics, and alert system are working; it does not mean that the smoke sensor is working. Smoke detectors will have a built date on the back. If there is no date it will need to be replaced.

Carbon Monoxide: CO detectors only have a 7-year life expectancy. Carbon monoxide detectors will have a built date on the back. If there is no date it will need to be replaced.

Replacement of Existing Detectors

Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors that exceed their life expectancy will need to be replaced. Existing detectors must be replaced with the same type as are currently installed. Hard wire detectors must be replaced with hard wire detectors. Battery powered detectors may be replaced with hard wire.

Detector Locations



Smoke Detector & Carbon Monoxide mounting location diagram

