

Guidelines For Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Massachusetts - One and Two Family Dwellings

ALL SMOKE DETECTORS MUST BE CEILING MOUNTED

Year Built or Substantially Modified		1/08 - 2/11	2/11 - Present
Before 1975		8/27/97 - 2007	
Battery Operated	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hardwired, interconnected	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hardwired, interconnected w/battery backup	Recommended	Required	Required

Smoke detector powered by:

Type of smoke detector:

Outside 20 ft. of kitchen or full bathroom	Either: One Photoelectric AND One Ionization detector OR a Dual Detector*	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR Dual Detector*	Photoelectric
Within 20 ft. of kitchen or full bathroom	Photoelectric	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric	Photoelectric	Photoelectric

CO detector powered by:

Battery or Plug-in w/battery backup	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hardwired, interconnected w/battery backup	Allowed	Allowed	Required	Required

Locations required:

Finished or Habitable Basement	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO
Every Habitable Level	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO
Base of Stairs	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Outside each Sleeping Area (hallway)	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO
Inside every Bedroom	Not Required	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Finished Attic (Habitable)	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO	Smoke/CO
Garage (Attached)	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Heat Detector

- * A dual detector consists of one detector with both photoelectric and ionization technology
- Low Voltage fire warning systems are exempt from the dual detector technology requirement
- Combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms MUST have a Voice Feature

This is a guide only. Please call Fire Prevention if should you still have questions: