



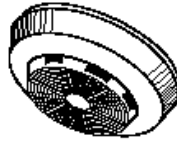
Wayne County Building Department

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SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES



For residential occupancies, the Building Code has a unique provision that requires smoke detectors to be retrofitted in existing dwelling units. Residential fire deaths far exceed those of any other building use.

More than one-half of the fire deaths, which occur in residential buildings, have occurred because of a delay in detection due to the occupants being asleep at the time of the fire. Most fatal fires occur at night, when most people are asleep. A common misconception is that smoke will awaken you if a fire does break out. In fact, the toxic smoke may actually put you into a deeper sleep, making a safe escape impossible. For this reason, smoke detectors are required to be installed not only in new residential construction, but also existing, when any addition, alteration, or repair causes a permit to occur. This provision is intended to speed up the installation of smoke detectors in residential buildings, as they have proven to be very effective in the reduction of fire deaths.

In general, the code requires that smoke detectors receive their power from the building wiring with a battery backup, except for the installation of detectors in existing buildings or in buildings regulated by the retroactive provisions. In this case detectors may be solely battery operated where the work requiring a permit does not result in the exposure of electrical wiring by the removal of interior wall and ceiling finishes, unless, there is an attic, crawl space, or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring and interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

The code requires smoke detectors to be located in the following locations:

- 1) Inside of each sleeping room
- 2) On the ceiling or wall of the corridor or area giving access to the sleeping rooms
- 3) One on each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and cellars.

For years we have known that the best way to fight a fire is to stop it before it starts. But when fire prevention isn't possible, a smoke detector is your first and best line of defense.

For your safety, to ensure your smoke detectors are installed and operating correctly, your final inspection includes inspection of these smoke detectors.

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