



Wayne County Building Department

428 WEST LIBERTY STREET
WOOSTER, OHIO 44691

TELEPHONE: (330) 287-5525
FAX: (330) 287-5649

SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The Residential Code of Ohio requires smoke alarms & carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in dwelling units. Residential fire deaths far exceed these 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 alarms 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. (See Code Section on reverse side of this page).

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

For your safety, to ensure your smoke alarms are installed and operating correctly, your final inspection includes inspection of both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

SECTION 314 SMOKE ALARMS

314.1 Smoke detection and notification. All smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217 and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

314.2 Smoke detection systems. Household fire alarm systems installed in accordance with NFPA 72 that include smoke alarms, or a combination of smoke detector and audible notification device installed as required by this section for smoke alarms, shall be permitted. The household fire alarm system shall provide the same level of smoke detection and alarm as required by this section for smoke alarms. Where a household fire warning system is installed using a combination of smoke detector and audible notification device(s), it shall become a permanent fixture of the occupancy and owned by the homeowner. The system shall be monitored by an approved supervising station and be maintained in accordance with NFPA 72.

Exception: Where smoke alarms are provided meeting the requirements of Section 314.4.

314.3 Location. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.

314.3.1 Alterations, repairs and additions. When alterations, repairs or additions requiring an approval are made to the spaces described in items 1 and 2 of Section 314.3, smoke alarms shall be provided in those spaces as required for a new dwelling. When one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the new sleeping rooms and the immediate vicinity outside each sleeping room shall be equipped with smoke alarms as required for new dwellings.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the

addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.

2. Installation or alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.

314.4 Power source. Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. Smoke alarms shall be interconnected.

Exceptions:

1. Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power.
2. Interconnection and hard-wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, 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.

SECTION 315 CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

315.1 Carbon monoxide alarms. For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages.

315.2 Where required in existing dwellings. Where work requiring a permit occurs in existing dwellings that have attached garages or in existing dwellings within which fuel-fired appliances exist, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in accordance with Section 315.1.

315.3 Alarm requirements. Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.