

# Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Alarms



**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

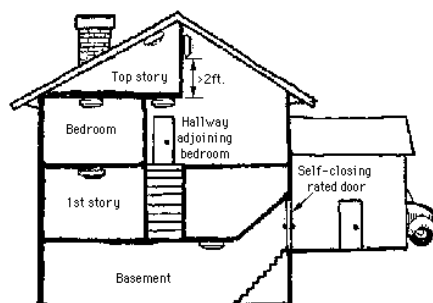
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This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the 2015 Minnesota Residential Code, Minnetrista City ordinances, and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or permit applicant. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

## New Construction

In newly constructed dwellings, smoke alarms must be installed in each sleeping room, outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms, and on each story of the dwelling including basements. Smoke alarms must be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the dwelling unit. Smoke alarms must receive their primary power from the building wiring but must have a battery backup. Circuits containing smoke alarms are not permitted to have a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.



## Remodeled or Altered Dwellings

Smoke alarms must be installed in existing dwellings to meet the requirements for new dwellings whenever **interior** alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, when one or more bedrooms are added, or when windows or doors are installed or replaced. The alarms are required to be hardwired and interconnected and equipped with a battery backup. However, in existing portions of the building, alarms can be solely battery operated where the work does not involve removal of wall or ceiling finishes.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms – Where work requiring a permit occurs in existing dwellings that have attached garages or in existing dwellings within fuel fired appliances exist, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided. Note: There are no exceptions to the Carbon Monoxide Alarm requirements for trade permits.

Where to install smoke alarms.

*Read the installation instructions that come with the alarm.*

THERE ARE CERTAIN LOCATIONS TO AVOID SUCH AS NEAR BATHROOMS, HEATING APPLIANCES, WINDOWS, OR CLOSE TO CEILING FANS. DON'T PLACE SMOKE ALARMS IN KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, FURNACE ROOMS, WORKSHOPS, GARAGES, OR IN OTHER SPACES WHERE TEMPERATURES CAN FALL BELOW 32 °F, OR EXCEED 100 °F. THESE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO FUMES, STEAM, DUST AND SMOKE, WHICH CAN GENERATE FALSE ALARMS AND CONTAMINATE THE ALARM'S ALARM. DON'T INSTALL ALARMS WHERE AIR MOVEMENT CAN DELAY THE ALARM. THIS MEANS THEY SHOULD BE AWAY FROM WINDOWS AND AT LEAST 3 FT. FROM WARM OR COLD AIR DUCTS OR RETURN DUCTS. ALSO, DON'T INSTALL THEM BETWEEN AN AIR RETURN AND A BEDROOM DOOR.

