



SMOKE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS

New Construction (per CBC)

NOTE: All smoke alarms shall be installed per manufacturer specifications and be located at least 36" away from HVAC supply or return vents.

Smoke alarms (hard wired with battery back up) shall be installed in the following locations:

Residential R-1:

1. In sleeping areas.
2. In every room in the path of the means of egress from the sleeping area to the door leading from the sleeping unit
3. In each story within the sleeping unit, including basements. For sleeping 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.
4. In enclosed common stairwells of multiple-dwelling complexes.

Residential R-2, R-3, R-3.1, and R-4:

1. On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.
3. In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements but not including crawlspaces 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.
4. In enclosed common stairwells of apartment complexes and other multiple-dwelling complexes.
5. In a group R-3.1 occupancy, in addition to the above, smoke alarms shall be provided throughout the habitable areas of the dwelling unit except kitchens.

Existing Buildings (For all dwelling units intended for human occupancy, per Health and Safety Code)

A permit meeting the following two conditions requires smoke alarms per the requirements for new construction: 1) Valuation of permit for alterations, repairs, or additions exceeds \$1,000 and 2) the scope of

work is located within the dwelling unit, thus requiring the inspector to enter the dwelling unit and to perform required inspections within the dwelling unit. Thus, a permit for work that does not require an inspection to occur within the dwelling unit (R-occupancy group), does not trigger smoke alarms. Existing construction may utilize battery-operated alarms.