

Definitions

A **combination alarm** is a single or multiple station device that detects visible or invisible products of combustion including a built-in internal alarm signal and the same single or multiple station device that also senses carbon monoxide and is capable of emitting a distinct and audible sound.

Interconnection is the activation of any one smoke alarm causes alarm activation of all other required smoke alarms within the unit.

A **smoke alarm** is a single or multiple station device that detects visible or invisible products of combustion and includes a built-in internal alarm.

A **smoke detector** is a system-connected smoke sensing device tied to a fire alarm control panel or a household fire warning panel.

Disclaimer

Additional smoke alarms or smoke detectors may be required by the Code Official. Code Administration recommends AC primary with battery backup smoke alarms in all units and structures.

This publication is intended to be a guide to assist in answering general inquiries. This publication does not include all aspects of the relevant codes. Code requirements vary depending on numerous factors. For specific questions, please contact our office.

Permits

Permits are required for constructing, enlarging, altering, repairs, moving demolishing or changing the occupancy of a structure. All electrical, heating, and plumbing work is to be completed by licensed contractors under permit. Applications for permits may be obtained through the Permits office on the 3rd floor of City Hall. Questions about permits call 301-739-8577 Ext. 123 or email permits@hagerstownmd.org

Phone: 301-739-8577, Ext. 103

Fax: 301-791-2650

Email: codecompliance@hagerstownmd.org

April 2025



Department of Housing & Community Development
One East Franklin Street, Suite 300
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Smoke Alarms



Requirements



1 E. Franklin St. Suite 300
Hagerstown, MD 21740

301-739-8577 Ext. 103

Smoke Alarms

Location Requirements

Smoke alarms shall be installed on every level of a structure including basements.

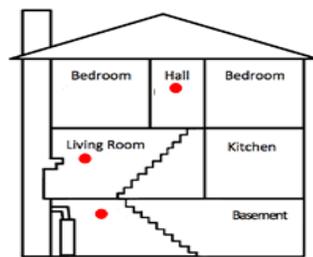
Smoke alarms are NOT required in non-habitable attics and crawl spaces.

Built prior to January 1, 2001:

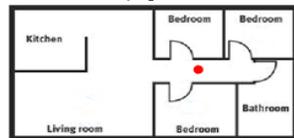
Smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in the area of the bedrooms.

Built after January 1, 2001:

Smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in the area of the bedrooms and in each bedroom.



One sleeping area location



Multiple sleeping areas locations



Power Requirements

One and Two unit Dwellings

Structures built before July 1, 1975 shall have 10 year lithium battery powered smoke alarms or combination alarms that are sealed and tamper-resistant.

Structures built between July 1, 1975 and June 30, 1990, shall have AC primary smoke alarms or combination alarms.

Structures built on or after July 1, 1990 shall have AC primary with battery backup smoke alarms or combination alarms.

Three Unit Dwelling

Option 1 – Install 10 year lithium battery power smoke alarms on every level, outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and in each bedroom, or

Option 2 – Install AC primary with battery backup smoke alarms on every level, in each dwelling unit outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.

Four or more unit Dwellings

All four or more unit dwellings shall have AC primary with battery back-up smoke alarms or smoke detectors.

Interconnection

Structures built on or altered after January 1, 1989 shall maintain interconnection of smoke alarms, smoke detectors and combination alarms.

A Code Official may require interconnection of alarms on structures built prior to January 1, 1989 if substandard aspects of the building warrant such a measure to protect public health, safety and welfare.

Listing Requirements

All smoke alarms shall be in compliance with UL217 or UL 268.

All combination alarms shall be in compliance with UL217 or ANSI/UL268 and UL2034 or UL 2075.

Hearing Impaired

An owner of a structure with a deaf or hearing impaired occupant shall install a carbon monoxide alarm or combination alarm so that when activated provides a signal sufficient to warn the deaf or hearing impaired resident(s) or occupant(s).

Other Requirements

Smoke alarms and smoke detectors shall not be installed within a 36 inches horizontal path from a door to a bathroom containing a shower or tub unless listed. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.4.(7)]

Smoke alarms and smoke detectors shall not be installed within a 36 - inches horizontal path from the supply registers of a forced air heating or cooling system and shall be installed outside of the direct airflow from those registers. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.4.(8)]

Smoke alarms and smoke detectors shall not be installed within 36 inches horizontal path from the tip of the blade of a ceiling suspended (paddle) fan.[2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.4.(9)]

Smoke alarms or smoke detectors shall be installed within 21 feet of any door to a sleeping room, with the distance measured along a path of travel. [2025 NFPA 72 29.8.1.1.(2)]

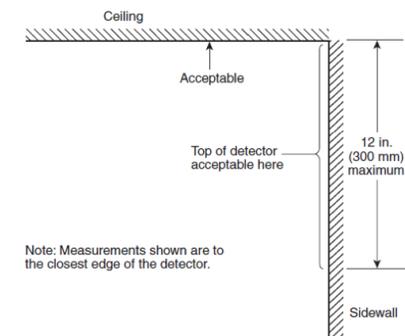
Smoke alarms and smoke detectors shall not be installed with 10 feet of a cooking appliance. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.4.(4)]

Replacement

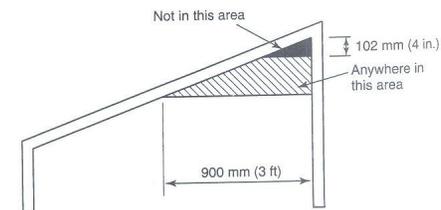
All smoke alarms, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms, and combination alarms in operation for more than 10 years are to be replaced. [2025 NFPA 72 14.4.5.8]

Mounting Requirements

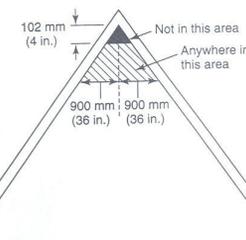
Wall mounted smoke alarms or smoke detectors mounted on walls shall be located not further than 12 inches from the adjoining ceiling surface. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.3]



Sloped ceiling smoke alarms mounted on a ceiling greater than 1 foot 8 inches horizontally shall be located within 36 inches of the high side of the ceiling, but not closer than 4 inches from the adjoining wall surface. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.2]



Peaked Ceiling Smoke alarms shall be located within 36 inches horizontally of the peak, but not closer than 4 inches vertically to the peak. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.1]



Basement smoke alarms shall be mounted on the bottom of a solid beam or joist. [2025 NFPA 72 17.7.4.2.4]

For stairways leading up from a basement, a smoke alarm or smoke detector shall be located on the basement ceiling near the entry to the stair. [2025 NFPA 72 29.11.3.4.(11)]