

Massachusetts Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirements

Typical one- and two-family residences built before January 1, 1975:

Smoke detectors are required as follows:

- On every habitable level of the residence.
- On the ceiling at the base of each stairway.
- On the ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area.
- The smoke detectors may either be battery powered, hardwired or a combination of the two.
- If the smoke detector is located within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke detector will be required to be a photoelectric detector.
- If the smoke detector is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or a bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower) you must utilize either:
 - A dual detector (containing both ionization and photoelectric technologies); **OR**
 - Two separate detectors (one photoelectric and one ionization).
 - Low voltage household warning systems are exempt from the dual detection requirement.

Carbon monoxide alarms are required as follows:

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and must be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination detectors (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used if the detector is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- Combination detectors (ionization smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used if the detector is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- May be either: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, hardwired with battery backup, or system type.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement.

Typical one- and two-family residences permitted between 1975 and August 27, 1997:

Smoke detectors are required as follows:

- One smoke detector on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke detector on the ceiling at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke detector on the ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area.
- A minimum of one smoke detector must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level.
- Must be hardwired interconnected smoke detectors.

Carbon monoxide alarms are required as follows:

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and must be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination detectors (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used anywhere.
- Combination detectors (ionization smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used if the detector is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- May be either: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, hardwired with battery backup, or system type.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement.

Massachusetts Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirements

Typical one- and two-family residences permitted after August 27, 1997:

Smoke detectors are required as follows:

- One smoke detector on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke detector at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke detector outside of each separate sleeping area.
- One smoke detector inside every bedroom.
- A minimum of one smoke detector must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected smoke detectors with battery backup.
- If the smoke detector is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke detector is required to be a photoelectric detector.

Carbon monoxide alarms are required as follows:

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and must be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination detectors (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used anywhere.
- Combination detectors (ionization smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used if the detector is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- May be either: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, hardwired with battery backup, or system type.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement.

Typical one- and two-family residences permitted on or after January 1, 2008:

Smoke detectors are required as follows:

- One smoke detector on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke detector at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke detector outside of each separate sleeping area.
- One smoke detector inside every bedroom.
- A minimum of one smoke detector must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected smoke detectors with battery backup.
- If the smoke detector is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke detector is required to be a photoelectric detector.
- If the smoke detector is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or a bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke detector is required to be either a photoelectric detector or a dual detector (containing both ionization and photoelectric technologies).

Carbon monoxide alarms are required as follows:

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination detectors (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected with battery backup. (May be separately wired from the existing smoke detection system.)
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement.

Heat detectors are required as follows:

- Must have a single heat detector in any garage attached to or under the residence.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected with or without battery backup to the existing smoke detection system.
- Heat detectors are not required in older homes unless renovation, addition or modification occurs after Jan. 1, 2008.