



Bureau of Fire Prevention of the Borough of Englishtown

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Guidelines for Locating and Installing Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Alarms & Kitchen Fire Extinguishers

Please Note

This information is intended to provide general guidance and does not address every situation that may be encountered.

Smoke Detectors & Carbon Monoxide Alarms (minimum requirements)

For Homes Built Before 1977:

- Battery-powered smoke detectors (MUST BE 10 year SEALED LITHIUM BATTERY).
- One smoke detector on each level (including the basement but excluding the attic).
- One smoke detector within ten (10) feet of each bedroom.
- One carbon-monoxide alarm within ten (10) feet of each bedroom.

For Homes Built from 1977 to 1990:

- 120-volt hardwired (not interconnected) smoke detectors with battery back-up.
 - **Note: In homes built 1984-1989 the smoke detectors must be interconnected.**
- One smoke detector in each level (including the basement but excluding the attic)
- One smoke detector within ten (10) feet of each bedroom.
- One carbon-monoxide alarm within ten (10) feet of each bedroom.

For Homes Built 1990 to Present:

- 120-volt hardwired INTERCONNECTED smoke detectors with battery back-up.
- One smoke detector on each level (including the basement but excluding the attic).
- One smoke detector within ten (10) feet of each bedroom, PLUS
- One smoke detector within each bedroom.
- One carbon-monoxide alarm within ten (10) feet of each bedroom.

Homes that have had an Addition or Renovation:

- Please call our office and speak to a fire inspector regarding the requirements for your specific home

In General:

- All of the smoke detectors used to provide the required coverage must be of the same type.

Battery-operated detectors, 120-volt hardwired detectors, and fire alarm system detectors cannot be combined to provide the required coverage; one type of detector must be consistent throughout the house.

- Fire alarm systems (regardless of whether or not they are currently monitored) shall be tested by a New Jersey state-certified fire protection equipment contractor who provides a report in accordance with NFPA 72. (Additional information about acceptable alarm reports can be obtained by calling the Bureau of Fire Safety.)
- Smoke detectors more than ten (10) years old shall be replaced as per NFPA 72.
- All devices must be UL-approved, and mounted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Do not mount smoke detectors within 4 inches of where the ceiling meets the wall or in the peak of an A-frame.
- Do not install smoke detectors in garages or unfinished, non-walkup attics. Avoid installing smoke detectors within ten (10) feet of a bathroom or kitchen unless needed to provide required coverage, or near a furnace or forced air duct.

Instructions for the Kitchen Fire Extinguisher

- At least one portable fire extinguisher shall be installed in all one- and two-family dwellings.
- The extinguisher shall be a dry-chemical type which is listed, labeled, charged and operable.
- The extinguisher size shall be rated for residential use, no smaller than 2A:10B:C, and weigh no more than 10 pounds.
- The extinguisher must be mounted within ten (10) feet of the kitchen.
- The extinguisher must be visible and in a readily accessible location, free from being blocked by doors, furniture, storage, or other items.
- The extinguisher must be near a room exit or travel path that provides an escape route to the exterior of the building.
- The hangers or brackets provided by the manufacturer must be used to mount the extinguisher.
- The top of the extinguisher must not be more than five (5) feet above the floor.
- The extinguisher must be installed with the operating instructions clearly visible.
- The extinguisher must be accompanied by an owner's manual or written information regarding the operation, inspection, and maintenance of the extinguisher.