



Princeton Department of Emergency & Safety Services  
Bureau of Fire Safety  
One Monument Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
Phone: 609-497-7646  
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www.princetonnj.gov

## 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.



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## **Obtaining a Certificate of Smoke Detector, Carbon-Monoxide Alarm, and Kitchen Fire Extinguisher Compliance**

A Certificate of Smoke Detector, Carbon Monoxide Alarm, and Kitchen Fire Extinguisher Compliance is required in all one-and two-family dwellings whenever there is a **change in occupancy**, usually when a property is sold or there is a change in tenant in a residential rental unit. Once this certificate has been issued, it remains valid for six (6) months or until another change in occupancy occurs, whichever comes first.

For a Certificate of Smoke Detector, Carbon Monoxide Alarm, and Kitchen Fire Extinguisher Compliance to be issued, there must be an inspection by an inspector from the Princeton Department of Emergency & Safety Services. In addition, for homes with fire-alarm systems, (regardless of whether or not the system is currently being monitored), a report in accordance with NFPA 72 must be obtained from a NJ-certified alarm company.

Before making application for an inspection and certificate, please read the "Guidelines for Locating and Installing Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Alarms & Kitchen Fire Extinguishers" on the following pages carefully. The applicant must be familiar with the property and the type of fire protection present when making an application and appointment for the inspection. Feel free to call the Bureau of Fire Safety with any questions you may have. This will help you prepare for a successful inspection and reduce the need for re-inspections and additional fees.

**Please note: No application is complete until your inspection appointment has been made.** We must have your application in the office in order to schedule this inspection appointment. A responsible person over the age of eighteen (18) must be present to meet the inspector and provide access to the property.

All fees are to be paid prior to scheduling the inspection:

**Inspection Fees:** Initial Inspection \$50 per unit (Includes one Re-inspection)  
Any Additional Re-inspection \$50 per unit

**plus Certificate Fee:** when application is completed more than 10 days before closing/occupancy date \$45 per unit  
when application is made between 4 and 10 days before closing/occupancy date \$90 per unit  
when application is made less than 4 days before closing/occupancy date \$161 per unit

## **THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE WILL EQUAL THE SUM OF ALL INSPECTION FEES PLUS THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATE FEE**

Once the inspection has been passed and a Certificate of Smoke Detector, Carbon Monoxide Alarm, and Kitchen Fire Extinguisher Compliance has been issued, it will be sent via email or available for pick-up in the office of the Bureau of Fire Safety at One Monument Drive.