



Township Of West Milford

DEPARTMENT
OF BUILDING SAFETY

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Smoke Detectors

This handout based on the **2000 International Residential Code NJ, NFPA 72 and the N.J. Uniform Construction Code** for single-family homes. This is only a guide and cannot cover every situation you may encounter.

New Homes, Additions and Alterations

All new homes are required to have smoke detectors installed. For additions and alterations all newly created bedrooms and/or stories are required to have smoke detectors installed. Hardwired smoke detectors are no longer *required* in existing bedrooms of houses being added to or renovated if no work is taking place in that bedroom, but adding them, if practical, will greatly increase the safety of your family and is **highly recommended**.

Location:

- Inside every bedroom (or newly created bedrooms in the case of an addition or alteration).
- In the immediate vicinity (within 10' of the door) of bedrooms (or newly created bedrooms).
- In each story, including the basement, even if those stories do not have bedrooms.

Most smoke detector can protect an area up to 1500 sq. ft., so if any floor is over 1500 sq. ft. you will probably need at least two detectors on that floor. Smoke detectors are not recommended in unheated attics, condensation may cause false alarms. Smoke detectors are not allowed in garages, heat detectors may be used in garages.

Power supply: The primary power supply should be supplied by the house's AC wiring. Either hard wired, line voltage, detectors or supplied through a central fire/burglar alarm. The alarm must also have a battery back-up power supply.

Interconnection: Where more than one detector is required to be installed, the detectors shall be interconnected so that if one detector is activated all the detectors will sound.

Combination Fire/Burglar Alarms: Smoke detectors that are part of a central fire/bugler alarm are acceptable as long as they meet the following requirements:

- They must be installed in all locations listed above.
- The system must get it primary power source from the house's AC wiring and have a battery back-up system.
- When activated they must have a different and distinct sound from the burglar alarm.
- When activated they must produce an alarm of at least 85 decibels inside each bedroom with the doors closed.