



Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

CITY OF NEWARK, CALIFORNIA

BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION

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GENERAL: Sections R314 and R315 of the 2010 California Residential Code require the installation of both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in all new dwelling units and in existing dwellings whenever alterations and/or additions exceed \$1,000.00 in construction valuation.

SMOKE DETECTORS: Smoke detectors shall be installed in the following locations;

- In each sleeping room
- Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms
- At each story including basements and habitable attics. The alarms located outside sleeping areas can be counted as meeting this requirement for the story they are located on.

There are specific requirements for installing smoke detectors in the above mentioned rooms.

- Smoke detectors should be mounted on the ceiling as close to the center of the room as possible. If this is not practical, mount no closer than four inches (4") from any wall or corner. For sloped ceilings mount the detector between twenty inches (20") and sixty inches (60") from the high point of the ceiling. If the detector is mounted on a wall install the detector no closer than four inches (4") and no further than twelve inches (12") from the ceiling and no closer than four inches (4") from a corner.
- Smoke alarms shall not be installed in bathrooms containing a bathtub or shower and no closer than three feet (3') from opening to the bathroom.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed on un-insulated ceilings or exterior walls.
- Smoke alarms shall be installed no closer than ten feet (10') from a permanently installed cooking device.
- Smoke alarms shall not be installed within three feet (3') of a forced air heating or cooling register.
- Ionization smoke alarms shall have an integral battery with a ten year life and be equipped with a alarm silencing switch.
- Smoke alarms have a useful life of only ten years. Smoke alarms with a manufacturing date over ten years old shall be replaced.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS: Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and initially non-irritating. Carbon monoxide is a product of incomplete combustion of organic matter. Common sources of carbon monoxide in and around dwellings are fire places, gas stoves, gas water heaters, gas furnaces, automobiles, and small internal combustion engines. Exposures at 100 ppm or greater can be dangerous to human health. Symptoms include lightheadedness, confusion, headaches, vertigo, and flu-like effects. High exposures can lead to significant toxicity of the central nervous system and heart, and death.

Carbon Monoxide alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

- Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom(s).
- On every level of a dwelling unit including basements.

