

RULES FOR SMOKE ALARMS

ATTENTION BUILDERS!!!!

Beginning January 1, 2008 any addition, alteration, or repair requiring a building permit or where one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings. This includes but not limited to kitchen and bath remodels, finishing a basement, adding a room or garage addition.

2018 NCRC SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

A smoke alarm shall be installed in the following locations:

- In each sleeping room
- Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics and not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
- Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by Section R314.3.
- All smoke alarms shall be hard-wired and interconnected where wall/ceiling coverings are removed (see exceptions below).
- An electrical permit is required for installation of hard-wired interconnected smoke alarms.

EXCEPTIONS:

- Interconnection and hard wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure. Smoke alarms installed under this scenario may be battery powered and shall be designed to emit a recurring signal when batteries are low and need to be replaced (See R314.6).
- Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements.
- Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt for the requirements.

For additional information regarding smoke alarms please contact the Customer Information & Resource Center (CIRC) at 980-314-2633 or circ@mecklenburgcountync.gov

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