

SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

The following information and requirements are based on the 2013 Amendment of the Connecticut State Building Code. This information is primarily designed for single family residences. Questions regarding multi-family dwellings may be directed to the Building Official or Fire Marshal at the Granby Town Hall.

Requirements for new homes:

Smoke alarms are required in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area within the immediate vicinity, and on each floor including the basement. Alarms are required to be interconnected in such a manner that when one alarm is activated all alarms in the house will be activated. Physical interconnection is not required where listed alarms are installed that will activate all other alarms. Smoke alarms are required to have battery back-up to operate in the event of power failure.

Requirements for additions or renovations:

When additions, alterations, or repairs requiring a building permit occur, or when one or more additional sleeping rooms are created, smoke alarms shall be installed throughout the dwelling as required for new dwellings. In areas where there is new construction, or where wall or ceiling surfaces are removed for renovation, smoke alarms shall be wired to the dwelling's primary power source, with battery back-up to operate in the event of power failure. Smoke alarms in other areas of the dwelling that are not being renovated may be battery operated only and are not required to be interconnected.

Carbon monoxide alarms:

Carbon monoxide alarms are required for all dwelling units which have

- a) Any type of fuel burning appliance or heating system,
- b) fireplace, or
- c) an attached garage.

In new construction carbon monoxide alarms are required to be powered by the building's primary power source and have a battery backup in the event of a power

failure. Carbon monoxide alarms are required on each floor and the basement. Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms may be used to meet these requirements.

General recommendations for smoke/carbon monoxide alarms:

When remodeling or renovating, consider interconnection of alarms with other areas of the house that are accessible to provide better coverage and early warning.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends replacing all smoke alarms more than 10 years old due to failure and reliability issues.

All smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be tested monthly, and batteries replaced twice a year.

Smoke alarms should not be installed in garages, or near fans or heating/cooling registers, or within 1 foot of the wall. Wall mounted alarms should be installed a minimum of 8 inches from the ceiling.

Do not install smoke alarms in a kitchen.