



CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK
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SMOKE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS

Why are Smoke Detectors Required? More fire deaths occur in residential buildings than in any other type of building. More than half of all fire deaths that occur in residential buildings occur when the occupants are asleep and are unaware that a fire has occurred. Death usually results from asphyxiation long before the fire reaches the bedroom. Smoke detectors installed in a home give an early warning of smoke and fire thus giving the occupants the critical few moments needed to escape.

When Required: In all newly built residential dwelling and whenever the valuation of an addition, alteration, or repair to a residential occupancy exceeds \$1,000 and a permit is required; or whenever one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in an existing residential occupancies, smoke detectors must be installed.

Exception: Work on the exterior of a residential occupancy that does not require entry into the residential building or structure for inspections is exempt.

Power Source: In all new residential and commercial construction, required smoke detectors must receive their primary power from the building wiring system and be equipped with a battery backup. The detector must emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring must be permanent and without a disconnection switch other than those required for over-current protection. Smoke detectors may be only battery operated when installing in an existing buildings; or in buildings without commercial power; or in buildings that undergo alterations, repairs, or additions.

Location within Residential Dwelling Units:

In residential dwelling units, a detector must be installed in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the hallway or corridor, or in an area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the residential dwelling unit has more than one floor or a basement, a detector must be installed on each floor and in the basement. In residential dwelling units where a floor or the basement is split into two or more levels, except that when the lower level contains a sleeping area, a detector must be placed at the ceiling of the upper level in close proximity to the stairway. In residential dwelling units where the ceiling height of a room open to the hallway serving the bedrooms exceed that of the hallway by 24 inches or more, a smoke detector must be installed in the hallway and in the adjacent sleeping area. Detectors must sound an alarm audible in all sleeping areas of the residential dwelling unit in which they are located.

**TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR MONTHLY AND
REPLACE YOUR BATTERIES YEARLY**

