



Borough of Totowa

Fire Prevention Bureau
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Fire Official

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SMOKE DETECTOR INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

SMOKE DETECTORS

- Install one smoke detector in the basement and on each floor - Unfinished attics do not require a smoke detector.
- Any floor containing a bedroom(s) must have a smoke detector placed within 10 feet of the **outside or exterior** of the doorway to the bedroom - One detector can provide protection to multiple rooms as long as the distance requirement is met. This detector(s) can also satisfy the floor requirement.
- **Special Note:** As of 1/1/19, any individual battery powered detectors MUST contain a 10-year sealed lithium battery. If you have access to the battery, it is not a sealed unit.
- **All smoke detectors are required to be less than 10 years old and UL listed.**

HARD-WIRED SMOKE or SMOKE/CO DETECTORS

- Hard-wired individual smoke or combination smoke/CO detectors that are already installed will need to be maintained as installed and cannot be removed/replaced with 10-year sealed battery detectors.
- **All hard-wired and/or interconnected detectors are required to be less than 10 years old and must be UL listed. If you have hard-wired smoke detectors, you cannot revert back to battery operated detectors.**

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors **must** be located within 10 feet of the bedrooms (must be **outside** the bedroom) - Though not required, we do recommend having Carbon Monoxide detectors on all floors.
- **All Carbon Monoxide detectors are required to be less than 10 years old.**

MONITORED ALARM SYSTEM

- **Prior** to the Home Fire Inspection being scheduled and performed, the **homeowner/seller** will need to have the fire alarm system tested/serviced.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau will need a report and/or letter from the fire alarm company stating that the system has been tested/serviced.
- This same report will need to certify that the system detectors are less than 10 years old and in proper operating condition. The alarm report will expedite inspection and make it considerably easier for the **homeowner/seller**. This alarm report will need to be available to the inspector on the day of the inspection. The report can be sent ahead of time as well.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- no longer required as per Bill A3894 dated 2/3/2025.