



Town of Middletown

239 WYATT ROAD • MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02842

Office of the Fire Marshal

Office (401) 845-0444 • Fax (401) 845-0499

fireprevention@middletownri.com

Requirements for Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

Dates of Construction Permits dictate the type and location of Smoke/CO Alarms Required

Homes built in or prior to 1976

- o Smoke/CO alarms can be of the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm) or two separate units
- o They are permitted to be **battery operated**
- o They are **not required** to be **interconnected** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on **every level** of the home

Homes built after January 1, 1977 through December 31, 2001

- o Smoke/CO alarms can be of the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm) or two separate units
- o Smoke alarms are required to be **hard-wired with battery backup**
- o They **are required** to be **interconnected** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- o The *CO alarms* are allowed to be **battery operated**, if you do not use the combination type
- o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on **every level** of the home

Homes built after January 1, 2002 through February 19, 2004

- o Smoke/CO alarms can be the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm)
- o The Smoke/CO alarms are required to be **hard-wired with battery backup**.
- o They **are required** to be **interconnected** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on **every level** of the home

Homes built after February 20, 2004 through Present

- o Smoke alarms are required to be installed **inside every bedroom**
- o Smoke alarms are required to be **hard-wired with battery backup**
- o They **are required** to be **interconnected** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- o Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should still be installed on **every level** of the home
- o The Smoke/CO alarms are required to be **hard-wired with battery backup**

***Dwellings with no fossil fuels (gas, oil, propane), attached garages, or fireplaces are not required to install CO alarms. (*Middletown Fire recommends all homes have CO alarms*)**

****Information regarding alarms for the hard of hearing or visually impaired, can be obtained at www.OSCIL.org or email info@oscil.org.**

Guidelines for Installation of Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

- First, determine if the existing Smoke alarms are battery-operated, hardwired or low voltage**
 - o If they are hardwired they must be maintained.
 - o You shall not substitute a battery-operated Smoke alarm for a hardwired unit.
- Second, determine if the existing Smoke alarms are less than 10 years' old**
 - o Do this by taking the Smoke alarm down and looking for a manufacturers date on the back or inside the device.



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o If only a serial number is given, usually either the first two or last two numbers are the date of manufacture. They are likely too old.

There shall be a Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm on each level of the house

If there are bedrooms on a level, there should be a smoke and carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet (10') of each bedroom

o If the bedrooms are farther than ten feet (10') apart, install a second smoke alarm.

o Smoke alarms may be a Smoke/Carbon Combination alarm or two separate units.

Most standalone carbon monoxide alarms are designed to be mounted on the wall (*follow the manufacturer's directions*)

Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall **not** be of the plug-in type.

If there are no bedrooms on a level, the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm should be placed near the stairs to the next level

In the basement the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms should be within three feet (3') of the bottom of the stairs (*change effective in 2004*)

o If there is a bedroom in the basement more than ten feet (10') from the bottom of the stairs, a second smoke alarm should be installed outside the bedroom and the carbon monoxide can be moved to within ten feet (10') of the bedroom.

(*Ex. Smoke alarm only at the bottom of the stairs, Smoke/Carbon combo outside the bedroom*)

Alarms should not be within twenty feet (20') of any cooking appliance

o If a bedroom opens directly into a kitchen, the Smoke alarm shall be placed inside the bedroom on the ceiling, within the door swing.

Preferably Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling; however, they may be installed on the wall (*follow the manufacturer's directions*)

Payment for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Certifications is \$30.00 made payable to the Town of Middletown

o Accepted are Bank Checks, Money Orders, Cash or personal checks

o It is best to seek an appointment as soon as possible, with a minimum of a two week

notice. This allows time to reschedule or fix any problems that need correction after an inspection.

Failed inspections or no shows without prior cancellation will result in an additional charge of \$60.00 for each subsequent inspection as outlined in Rhode Island General Law

For an Appointment. please contact Susan Lentz at (401) 845-0444 Ext 1

[Beginning April 5th 2017 Inspections will be done on Wednesdays.](#)

If there any further questions, please contact the fire prevention office at (401) 845-0444.