

SMOKE DETECTOR GUIDELINES FOR HOUSEHOLDS

[NFPA 72 CHAPTER 11 - 2007]

REQUIRED DETECTIONS IN A UNIT

1. All units are required to have working smoke detectors in all sleeping rooms (Battery Operated or Hard Wired. Battery operated smoke alarms are permissible in older units)
2. New construction dwellings (ground up) are required to have Hard Wired smoke detectors in all sleeping rooms (No Exceptions)
3. All split-level units are required to have at least one working smoke detector on each level within the unit
4. Each detector installed must make an alarm that is clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise with all intervening doors closed

WALLS

Placement of smoke detectors on a wall must be that the device is mounted on a wall with the top of the detector not less than 4" and no more than 12" below the ceiling.

CEILINGS

1. Flat Ceilings - Smoke detectors mounted on a flat ceiling must be located no closer than 4" from the adjoining wall surface
2. Peaked Ceilings – Smoke detectors mounted on a peaked ceiling must be located within 36" (3ft) horizontally of the peak, but not closer than 4" vertically to the peak
3. Sloped Ceilings – Smoke detectors mounted on a sloped ceiling have a rise greater than 1ft in 8ft horizontally shall be located within 36" (3ft) of the high side of the ceiling, but not closer than 4" from the adjoining wall surface

HEAT AND AIR FLOW

1. Smoke detectors must be at least 36" (3ft) away from a horizontal path from the tip of the blade of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan
2. Smoke detectors must be at least 36" (3ft) from a horizontal path from the supply registers of a forced air/heating system (vents). The detectors must be installed outside of the direct airflow from those registers
3. Smoke detectors must be at least 36" (3ft) from a horizontal path from a door to a bathroom containing a shower or tub
4. Smoke detectors installed within a 20ft horizontal path of a cooking appliance **MUST** be equipped with an alarm-silencing means or be of the photoelectric type (If not smoke detector does not have either feature, the detector can be removed)

FAILED UNITS NEEDING CORRECTIVE ACTION

All noncompliant smoke detectors **MUST** be:

1. Disconnected
2. Removed from the noncompliant location
3. Repositioned and operating according to NFPA 72 standards
4. Have any formerly exposed wiring covered with a blank cover plate