Residential Smoke Alarms

Single-Family Dwelling and Duplex Requirements

Smoke alarms are required:

1) In every room used for sleeping purposes (see Figure 1):

2) On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area no more than 21 feet from the door of all sleeping rooms (see Figures 1 & 2):

3) In each story of a dwelling unit, including basements, but excluding crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics (see Figures 3 & 4).

Applicable Codes: 2010 California Residential Code, Section R314; 2010 California Fire Code, Section 907.2.11.2; NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm Code, 2007 Edition, Chapter 11, Sections 11.5 et al & A.11.5.1 - A.11.8.4.5; City Ordinance Chapter XI, Sections 11.2.3f and 11.4 (available upon request)

Please see reverse for NFPA Fire Protection Handbook and City of Albany regulations affecting Smoke Alarm Requirements.
Residential Smoke Alarms

National Fire Protection Association Guidelines

Figure A.11.8.3 of the 2007 National Fire Alarm Code illustrates proper mounting placement for smoke alarms. A four (4) inch “triangle” area in the corner created by a ceiling and sidewall is to be avoided because it can be a “dead area” which smoke has difficulty penetrating. Also, because smoke rises, wall-mounted smoke alarms should never be placed lower than twelve (12) inches from the ceiling.

Ceiling

Acceptable here

Never here

Top of alarm acceptable here

Sidewall

4 in. minimum

4 in.

12 in. maximum

NOTE: Measurements shown are to the closest edge of the alarm

Source: NFPA 72-2007: National Fire Alarm Code, Figure A.11.8.3

City of Albany Guidelines

- City of Albany policy requires that alarms installed in residences be of the photoelectric* type.
- When shopping for smoke alarms, look for photoelectric alarms which carry at least a 5-year warranty and are UL listed.
- All smoke alarms require regular monthly battery checks.

*(Per Albany Ordinance No.2010-06, passed 7/19/10)

For more information, call the City of Albany’s Community Development Department at (510) 528-5760 or Fire Prevention Bureau at (510) 528-5775.
Smoke Alarm Product List

On July 19, 2010, Albany’s City Council passed Ordinance No. 2010-06 requiring photoelectric technology smoke detectors/smoke alarms in nearly all cases in which smoke detectors/smoke alarms are required. Below is a list of products meeting the City’s requirements. This list is intended to be broad and inclusive, but is not exhaustive. Other products meeting City requirements may exist. This list is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any of these products.

First Alert

SA710CN  SCO5CN*
SA710LCN  SCO7CN*
SA720CN

http://www.firstalert.com/
*Combo smoke alarm/CO detector units

American Sensors

SA388

http://www.nadi.com/sa388.htm

Universal Security Instruments

SS-901
SS-901-2C/3CC
SS-901-LR
SS-901-LRC

http://smokealarms.com/app/universal/products/front_index/subcategory:3

BRK

SA710B  SC05B*
SA710AB  SC07B*
SA720CN

http://www.brkelectronics.com/
*Combo smoke alarm/CO detector units

Kidde

Model PE9

http://www.kidde.com/

NOTE: As of January 2013, all FireX smoke and CO detector products have been discontinued. Contact Kidde for FireX product support.

The products listed above are all current production models as of January 2013. All are photoelectric-technology battery-powered alarms which carry a minimum 5-year warranty and all are UL-listed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these or other smoke alarm products, please contact Albany’s Building Division at (510) 528-5760 or Fire Prevention Bureau at (510) 528-5775.