

# Residential Smoke Alarms

Listed below are the requirements for *residential smoke alarms*. This information is from the 2009 International Residential Code, Section R-314. Smoke alarms must be audible in all parts of the house and installed per the manufacturer's instructions.

## REQUIREMENTS

- A building permit and an electrical permit are required.
- Required locations:
  1. Inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
  2. Every floor level, including basements but not including crawlspaces or uninhabitable attics.
  3. For split level floor plans, a smoke alarm is only required on the upper level if:
    - a. There is no intervening door between adjacent levels; and
    - b. The lower level is less than a full story below the upper level.
  4. In napping areas in homes with day cares.
- New Houses:** Alarms are required and must be connected to the main electrical system with battery backup.
- Existing Houses (IRC R314.3.1):** Alarms are required for any addition, alteration, remodel or repair work requiring a permit, except exterior surface work such as reroofing.

**NOTE:** Alarms will not be required to be interconnected and hard wired when the permit work does not require the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes unless there is an accessible space available, such as an attic, crawlspace, or basement.

