



Fire Prevention Division
480 North Canal Street
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Office: (650) 829-6645
Fax: (650) 877-8537

Single Family Home Smoke Detector Guidelines

California State law requires an operating smoke detector on every inhabitable level, including the basement.

On or after January 1, 1986, every single family dwelling and factory built housing, as defined in section 19971 of the Health and Safety code, which is sold, shall have an operable smoke detector. The detector shall be approved and listed by the state Fire Marshal and installed in accordance with section 907.2.11.2 A battery-operated smoke detector shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this section. **(Ord. 1255 2 (part), 1999) South San Francisco Municipal Code, Section 310.16.3 (a) California Building Code**

Required Locations

- Smoke alarm must be installed properly in order to provide early warning of fires:
- In every bedroom.
- In hallways outside of bedrooms.
- At the top of interior stairways.
- On each level if the dwelling has two or more levels (including basement).

Smoke detectors should not be installed

- Near heaters or heater vents
- In or outside of kitchens (avoid placement within 6 feet of the kitchen)
- Directly outside bathroom doors (avoid placement within 6 feet of bathroom door).

Dust, water vapor (steam), or cooking can cause false alarms. Smoke alarms shall not be located in areas where these materials are produced.

Mounting Guidelines

- Locate on a smooth flat surface (preferably on a ceiling or on the bottom of a beam).
- Smoke detectors mounted on the ceiling should not be installed closer than 4 inches to an adjoining wall.
- If the smoke detector must be installed on the wall, it shall be mounted within 4 to 12 inches of the ceiling.
- Install per the approved manufacturers instructions.
- In unusual construction situation, consult a contractor.