



**TEWKSBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**www.tewksbury-ma.gov/fire-department**  
**Requirement Reference Sheet for Re-Sale**  
**Based on Building Permit Issue Date**  
**(MGL Chapter 148 Section 26F<sup>1/2</sup>)**  
**Effective January 1, 2019**

**Pre - January 1, 1975    One- and Two-family Dwellings**

**Smoke alarms are required as follows:**

- On every habitable level of the residence.
- On the ceiling at the base of each stairway.
- On the ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area.
- The smoke alarms may either be battery powered, hardwired with a battery backup, or a combination of the two.
- Smoke alarms are required to be photoelectric and may be dual detection photoelectric and ionization alarms if not within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- Smoke alarms located within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom will be required to be photoelectric alarms.
- **Smoke alarms must be under ten (10) years old and compatible if interconnected.**
- **Effective January 1, 2015, when replacing battery only alarms over ten (10) years old, the alarms must have a sealed ten (10) year non-rechargeable and non-replaceable battery.**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are required as follows:**

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and must be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination alarms (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- May be either: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, hardwired with battery backup, or system type.
- Combination (smoke/CO) alarms must have a tone and voice feature to differentiate the alarms.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement on ceiling or wall.
- Note: CO alarms typically have 5, 7, or 10 year life spans.

**Heat detectors are required as follows:**

- Heat detectors are not required in older homes unless renovation, addition or modification occurred after August 27, 1997.

**House numbers** must be permanently affixed to the house by either nails or screws and they must be clearly visible from the street. House numbers affixed to doors or a mailbox alone do not meet this requirement.



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**Effective January 1, 2019**

**January 1, 1975 through August 26, 1997    One- and Two-family Dwellings**

**Smoke alarms are required as follows:**

- One smoke alarm on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke alarm on the ceiling at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke alarm on the ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area.
- A minimum of one smoke alarm must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level.
- Must be hardwired interconnected smoke alarms; battery backup highly recommended.
- **Smoke alarms must be under ten (10) years old and compatible if interconnected.**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are required as follows:**

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and must be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination alarms (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used anywhere.
- Combination alarms (ionization smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used if the alarm is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- May be either: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, hardwired with battery backup, or system type.
- Combination (smoke/CO) alarms must have a tone and voice feature to differentiate the alarms.
- Follow manufacturer's instruction for placement on ceiling or wall.
- Note: CO alarms typically have 5, 7, or 10 year life spans.

**Heat detectors are required as follows:**

- Heat detectors are not required in older homes unless renovation, addition or modification occurred after August 27, 1997.

**House numbers** must be permanently affixed to the house by either nails or screws and they must be clearly visible from the street. House numbers affixed to doors or a mailbox alone do not meet this requirement.



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**August 27, 1997 through December 31, 2007 One- and Two-family Dwellings**

**Smoke alarms are required as follows:**

- One smoke alarm on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke alarm at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke alarm outside of each separate sleeping area.
- One smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- A minimum of one smoke alarm must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected smoke alarms with battery backup.
- If the smoke alarm is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke alarm is required to be a photoelectric alarm.
- If the smoke alarm is beyond 20 feet of a kitchen or a bathroom, the required smoke alarm may be of the photoelectric **OR** ionization type.
- **Smoke alarms must be under ten (10) years old and compatible if interconnected.**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are required as follows:**

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and must be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination alarms (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used anywhere.
- Combination alarms (ionization smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used if the alarm is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- May be either: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, hardwired with battery backup, or system type.
- Combination (smoke/CO) alarms must have a tone and voice feature to differentiate the alarms.
- Follow the manufacturer's instruction for placement on ceiling or wall.
- Note: CO alarms typically have 5, 7, or 10 year life spans.

**Heat detectors are required as follows:**

- Must have a single heat detector in any garage attached to or under the residence. Where a beam projects more than 18 inches below the ceiling or there is a dividing wall, the area will be treated as a separate area and shall require a heat alarm on both sides of the beam or wall.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected with or without battery backup to the existing smoke alarm system.
- Must have a single heat alarm installed, or the hardwired capability to install, in an unfinished attic space with a walk-up stairway (not pull-down type stairway).

**House numbers** must be permanently affixed to the house by either nails or screws and they must be clearly visible from the street. House numbers affixed to doors or a mailbox alone do not meet this requirement.



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**January 1, 2008 through January 31, 2011 One- and Two-family Dwellings**

**Smoke alarms are required as follows:**

- One smoke alarm on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke alarm at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke alarm outside of each separate sleeping area.
- One smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- A minimum of one smoke alarm must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected smoke alarms with battery backup.
- If the smoke alarm is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke alarm is required to be a photoelectric alarm.
- If the smoke alarm is beyond 20 feet of a kitchen or a bathroom, the smoke alarm is required to be either a photoelectric alarm **OR** a dual alarm (both ionization and photoelectric technologies in one alarm) with a hush feature.
- **Smoke alarms must be under ten (10) years old and compatible if interconnected.**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are required as follows:**

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination alarms (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used.
- **Must be hardwired and interconnected with battery backup.** (May be separately wired from the existing smoke alarm system.)
- Combination (smoke/CO) alarms must have a tone and voice feature to differentiate the alarms.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for placement on ceiling or wall.
- Note: CO alarms typically have 5, 7, or 10 year life spans.

**Heat detectors are required as follows:**

- Must have a single heat alarm in any garage attached to or under the residence. Where a beam projects more than 18 inches below the ceiling or there is a dividing wall, the area will be treated as a separate area and shall require a heat alarm on both sides of the beam or wall.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected with or without battery backup to the existing smoke alarm system.
- Must have a single heat alarm installed, or the hardwired capability to install, in an unfinished attic space with a walk-up stairway (not pull-down type stairway).

**House numbers** must be permanently affixed to the house by either nails or screws and they must be clearly visible from the street. House numbers affixed to doors or a mailbox alone do not meet this requirement.



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**February 1, 2011 through Present One- and Two-family Dwellings**

**Smoke alarms are required as follows:**

- One smoke alarm on every habitable level of the residence.
- One smoke alarm at the base of each stairway.
- One smoke alarm outside of each separate sleeping area.
- One smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- Smoke alarms are required to be photoelectric alarms.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected smoke alarms with battery backup.
- A minimum of one smoke alarm must be installed for every 1,200 square feet of living space per level **before** January 1, 2018 and 1,000 square feet on or **after** January 1, 2018.
- **Smoke alarms must be under ten (10) years old and compatible if interconnected.**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are required as follows:**

- On every level of the residence, including habitable portions of basements and attics and located within 10 feet of each bedroom door.
- Combination alarms (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) may be used.
- **Must be hardwired and interconnected with battery backup.** (May be separately wired from the existing smoke alarm system.)
- Combination (smoke/CO) alarms must have a tone and voice feature to differentiate the alarms.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for placement on ceiling or wall.
- Note: CO alarms typically have 5, 7, or 10 year life spans.

**Heat detectors are required as follows:**

- Must have a single heat alarm in any garage attached to or under the residence. Where a beam projects more than 18 inches below the ceiling or there is a dividing wall, the area will be treated as a separate area and shall require a heat alarm on both sides of the beam or wall.
- Must be hardwired and interconnected with or without battery backup to the existing smoke alarm system.
- Must have a single heat alarm installed, or the hardwired capability to install, in an unfinished attic space with a walk-up stairway (not pull-down type stairway).

**House numbers** must be permanently affixed to the house by either nails or screws and they must be clearly visible from the street. House numbers affixed to doors or a mailbox alone do not meet this requirement.