



Short-Term Rental Information: Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Smoke Alarms*

- **Where they must go:**
 - Inside every bedroom.
 - Outside each sleeping area (e.g., in the hallway right near the bedrooms).
 - On every level of the home, including the basement (but not unfinished attics or crawl spaces).
 - In certain vaulted/great room situations where a room open to the hallway has a ceiling ≥ 24 inches higher than the hallway, an extra alarm is needed.
- **Interconnection:** If there's more than one smoke alarm, they must all be wired (or wirelessly linked) so that when one detects smoke, all alarms sound.
- **Power source:** Hardwired to the house electricity with battery backup (battery-only is allowed in some existing-home retrofits).
- **Other rules:**
 - Keep them at least 3 feet away from bathroom doors (steam can cause false alarms) and avoid placing them too close to cooking appliances to prevent nuisance trips (special "cooking-friendly" alarms have slightly different distance rules).

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms*

- **CO alarms are only required if your home has:**
 - Fuel-burning appliances (gas furnace, gas water heater, gas stove, fireplace, wood stove, etc.), or
 - An attached garage.
- **If your home is all-electric with no attached garage → no CO alarms are required by the base IRC.**
- **Where they must go (when required):**
 - Outside each separate sleeping area (in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms — usually the hallway).
 - In (or immediately outside) any bedroom that has a fuel-burning appliance or an attached bathroom with a fuel-burning appliance.
- **Interconnection & Power:** Same as smoke alarms — hardwired with battery backup (or battery-only in some existing-home situations), and interconnected if multiple are required.

***Combination Units:** You can use smoke + CO combo alarms to satisfy both requirements in the same location.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS CONTACT: Andy Bartling at 308-233-3236 or by email at abartling@kearneygov.org