

Typical one- and two-family residences built before January 1, 1975:

Prior to the arrival of the fire department:

- Make sure that your posted street number is visible from the street (MGL c.148 § 59)
- Make sure that you have the proper type of detectors and that they are less than 10 years old, the fire inspector may take down detectors for compliance verification.
- Make sure that all detectors are installed in the proper locations.
- Make sure that all detectors are working properly.

Smoke detectors are required as follows:

- The smoke detectors may either be battery powered, hardwired or a combination of the two.
- One smoke detector on every habitable level of the residence.
- On the ceiling at the base of each stairway, but not within the stairway.
- On the ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area.
- If the smoke detector is located within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower), the smoke detector will be required to be a photoelectric detector.
- If the smoke detector is outside of 20 feet of a kitchen or a bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower) you must utilize either:
 - A dual detector (containing both ionization and photoelectric technologies); **OR**
 - Two separate detectors (one photoelectric and one ionization).

Carbon monoxide 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 detectors (photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used if the detector is within 20 feet of a kitchen or bathroom (containing a bathtub or shower).
- Combination detectors (ionization smoke and carbon monoxide detector) may be used if the detector 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.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement.