



## SMOKE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

By: Duke Chen, Principal Analyst

### ISSUE

Explain the smoke detector installation requirements for residential dwellings in state law.

### SUMMARY

Smoke detector installation requirements for residential dwellings depend on (1) whether the dwelling was designed as a single- or multi-family dwelling and (2) when the dwelling received its building permit for new occupancy.

### SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

Connecticut law requires smoke detectors to be installed in residential single-family dwellings if the building permit for new occupancy was issued on or after October 1, 1978. The detectors must be powered by both alternating current and batteries if the building permit was issued on or after October 1, 1985 ([CGS § 29-292](#)).

### MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING

Connecticut law requires smoke detectors in all multi-family dwellings. But regulations have different power source requirements depending on when the dwelling was built. For those multi-family dwellings issued a building permit for new occupancy:

1. on or after October 1, 1985, the smoke detectors must be powered by both alternating current and batteries;
2. on or after October 1, 1976 but before October 1, 1985, the detectors must be powered by the household electrical service (i.e., hardwired); and
3. before October 1, 1976, the detectors may be battery powered ([Conn. Agencies Regs., §§ 29-292-21e \(Amd 9.6.2.10.2\)](#)).



## **DURING ALTERATIONS**

Additionally, the law requires battery-operated smoke detectors to be temporarily installed in one- or two-family dwellings occupied while undergoing interior alterations or additions under a building permit ([CGS § 29-315b](#)).

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