



Cathedral City Residential Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Safety Sheet

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are proven life-safety devices. A working alarm can provide the early warning you need to escape a fire or avoid CO poisoning.

Smoke Alarms: Where to Install

Install smoke alarms in these locations:

- Inside every sleeping room
- In the area outside bedrooms, within 10 feet of all bedrooms (hallway or area preceding sleeping rooms)
- On every level of the home, including basements and habitable attic rooms
- At least 3 feet horizontally away from the tip of any ceiling fan's blades

Helpful placement tip to reduce nuisance alarms: keep smoke alarms at least 10 feet from cooking appliances when possible.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms: When Required and Where to Install

CO alarms are required in many homes, especially where fuel-burning appliances are present (gas, propane, wood) or when certain construction work is performed (an attached garage).

Install CO alarms in these locations:

- In the area outside bedrooms (hallway or area preceding sleeping rooms)
- On every level of the home, including basements and habitable attic rooms
- Inside sleeping rooms that contain fuel-burning (gas) appliances

Combination smoke/CO alarms are acceptable when listed and installed per manufacturer instructions.

Installation and Device Requirements

- Install alarms per the manufacturer’s instructions.
- In many situations, alarms must be hardwired and interconnected with battery backup, but some exceptions allow battery-only alarms based on the type of dwelling and scope of work. For example, if there is no pre-existing hardwiring, 10-year sealed battery alarms are permitted.
- CO alarms do not have a statewide requirement for a 10-year sealed battery, but 10-year options are encouraged when available.

If you are unsure what applies to your home, contact the Cathedral City Building & Safety Division.

Testing, Maintenance, and Replacement

- Test alarms monthly using the test button.
 - Keep alarms clean (lightly dust or vacuum as needed).
 - Replace smoke alarms every 10 years (or earlier if the manufacturer states).
 - Never paint over alarms or disable them.
-

What To Do If an Alarm Sounds

If a smoke alarm sounds

- Get outside immediately and stay outside.
- Call 9-1-1 from outside.
- Do not re-enter until fire officials say it is safe.

If a CO alarm sounds

- Move to fresh air immediately (outside).
- Call 9-1-1 if anyone has symptoms or if the alarm continues.
- Seek medical care if you feel unwell.

Common CO symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

Permits and Inspections in Cathedral City

In Cathedral City, smoke and CO alarms may be required when alterations, repairs, or additions are performed, and compliance may be verified at final inspection or through an installation certification form.

Need Help or Resources?

Cathedral City Fire & EMS

- **Address:** 32100 Desert Vista, Cathedral City, CA 92234
- **Non-Emergency:** (760) 770-8200
- **Emergency:** 9-1-1
- **Email:** fireinfo@cathedralcity.gov

Smoke alarm installation support: CCFE notes residents can request smoke alarm installation by emailing fireinfo@cathedralcity.gov.

Cathedral City Building & Safety Division:

- **Phone:** 760-770-0340
-

Important Note

This guideline is not exhaustive. Additional requirements may apply based on your home's layout, features, or project scope. Requirements may change due to updates to the **California Fire Code (CFC), California Building Code (CBC), California Residential Code (CRC)**, or local policies.