



TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON

Bureau of Fire Safety

Instructions for Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector & Portable Fire Extinguisher Inspections

Why must I have an Inspection before selling my Home?

1. To ensure the smoke detectors installed when your home was originally built in place and properly operating or,
2. To provide a minimum of battery operated smoke detectors in homes built before smoke detectors were required (1977).
3. Because over 80% of fire Fatalities area caused by smoke inhalation, and **working smoke detectors save lives.**
4. To ensure that Carbon Monoxide Detectors are properly installed and working (April 7, 2003).
5. To ensure that a portable Fire Extinguishers is installed within 10 feet of the kitchen. (November 2005)
6. IT IS THE LAW IN NEW JERSEY (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-198.2)

What does the inspection involve?

The Fire Marshal will visit your home at a scheduled time and spray a special chemical into your detector(s) or depress the test button on carbon Monoxide detector(s) and ensure that all the required detector(s) and the portable fire extinguisher are installed correctly and working properly. If everything works, you will be given a certificate.

What must I do to prepare for the Inspection?

1. Complete an application for Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Certification. (Can be picked-up at Construction Dept. window in Town Hall)
2. Pay the required fee and schedule the inspection.
3. Test all your Detectors by pressing and holding the test button until the device activates.
4. Replace batteries, as needed.
5. Clean the detectors by vacuuming with a strong vacuum or blowing them out with compressed air.
6. Make sure that the detectors are properly located and mounted securely. Detectors should not be closer than five feet to a ceiling fan, and ceiling mounted is preferred. Refer to attach map for further instructions.
7. If your home has 110-volt AC detectors that are part of an interconnected system, **all the detectors must activate when any one is tested!** Should a fire break out in your basement, the detector in your room will sound to alert you. If all your interconnected detectors are not sounding, you should hire a qualified, licensed Electrician to make repairs. **Placing a single-station battery detector in place of the 110-volt AC detector will result in Failure, delaying Certification.**
8. Install additional Detectors where missing. (Refer to attached map)
9. Install a portable, Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical (ABC) type fire extinguisher within ten feet of the kitchen.

10. Replace detectors when they are **TEN (10)** years old or older. As per NFPA 72 It is required that detectors shall be replaced do to the life expectancy of the detector.
11. Locate detectors away from nuisance sources. Detectors should not be placed in kitchens or bathrooms, near furnaces or fireplaces or dusty places.

Smoke Detectors are required:

- At the base (landing) of basement steps, (on the ceiling) nearest the steps.
- At the base of the stairs, (on the ceiling) nearest steps to second floor or level.
- At the top of steps to an attic **served by fixed steps**

Smoke Detectors are NOT required:

- Attics accessible by hatches, scuttles, pull-down steps or ladders.
- Crawl spaces without fixed permanent steps
- Do not place detectors on the sloped ceiling of stairwell.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors are required:

- In the area of the sleeping room(s) in all dwellings with attached garages, fuel burning appliance or fireplace.
- Most homes will require on detector, if all the sleeping rooms are in one area.

Portable Fire Extinguisher Are required:

Effective November 1, 2005, ***New Jersey law requires the installation of a minimum on one portable fire extinguisher of not less than 2 ½ pounds (2A-10-B:C) with in ten feet of the kitchen.*** These extinguishers are to be mounted to the wall using brackets supplied with the extinguishers and are of a Multi-Purpose type (ABC rating)

Where are Smoke Detectors Required?

Depending upon when your house was built, a minimum of one on every level (typically basement, near steps to second floor, and in corridor near bedroom within 10 (ten) feet of sleeping rooms.

Where are Carbon Monoxide Detectors Required?

In the immediate area of sleeping room(s) of your home. The detectors may be battery operated, 110-volt plug-in type or 110 volt hard wired. You may install a combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector, which contains both sensors inside one unit, if you wish. Homes with **any fuel burning appliance or attached garages** require carbon monoxide detectors.

I have a portable Fire Extinguisher but it is over one year old, or no longer charged what should I do?

Have the unit inspected and tagged by a NJ Certified Fire Equipment Contractor or: Purchase and install a new extinguisher.

Where can I purchase a portable Fire Extinguisher?

At any Home Center, Hardware Store, most large department stores, and at a Fire equipment vendor listed in the yellow pages.

Where do I install the fire extinguisher?

Per NFPA 10, (National Fire Protection Standard) they are to be installed in a conspicuous and accessible location, Not behind a door, under cabinet or placed on counter top, and shall mounted within 6” inches from the floor, but not more than 5 feet to the top of the unit. The extinguisher **MUST** be located within **ten feet** of the kitchen area, using the bracket supplied with the unit.

Who is responsible for furnishing the fire extinguisher?

Like the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors requirements, it is the responsibility of the SELLER

My Home is 100% electric, with no attached garage, and no fireplace. Do I need Carbon Monoxide Detector?

Since carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion, and you do not have a fuel burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage, you are exempt from the carbon monoxide requirement. Only smoke detectors would be required.

My Home has a Security Alarm System. Will this be tested?

No. If you installed a home security system, the alarm installer or contractor will have to certify your system. Only the equipment required by the N. J. Uniform Construction Code at the time of occupancy will be tested and certified.

Cancellations

You must call the office at 908-735-8800 ext. 254 during normal business hours to cancel. 48 hours notice is required for cancellations.

Appointments

Please keep your appointments.

Failures

Make necessary repairs as directed by the Fire Marshal and call to set up for a re-inspection. A re-inspection will be made after the required fee has been paid.

Questions?

Call the Township of Clinton Fire Marshal at 908-735-8800 ext. 254

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DETECTORS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER (S) ***BEFORE*** YOU SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION TO AVOID REINSPECTION FEES AND DELAY OF CERTIFICATION