Residential Smoke Alarm Locations

**Note:** UL Laboratories and the State Fire Marshal must label smoke alarms. Existing permanently wired smoke alarms must be replaced in kind. They are not permitted to be replaced with battery-powered units.

The installation locations spotted on the typical floor plans are only a general guide. Cathedral ceilings and the locations of existing fixtures, hallway doors, etc., can affect the proper location of smoke alarms. Contact the Building Division at (707) 778-4301 for any questions you may have for special circumstances.

Applicable to all persons buying and/or selling single family dwellings, apartments, and/or condominiums:

This notice is to inform all agents of the California Building Code (CBC), Section 907.2.11.2, “Location (of smoke detectors) within Dwelling Units,” which states:

“In dwelling units, a detector shall be installed in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area.” In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics.

Detector Criteria:
- Must be “UL” listed or other authorized listing/testing authority. Almost any detector sold at a hardware store is “listed” as tested. Look for the “UL” or other listing/testing authorities’ signatures on the packaging.
- Battery-operated detectors are acceptable.
- If powered by 110V house wiring, detectors require battery back-up.
- Either photoelectric or ionization detectors are acceptable.
- This standard does not apply to carbon monoxide detectors.
- See diagrams attached for general conditions.

Early detection of smoke and fire gasses is paramount in saving lives in residential fires.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact the Fire Marshal’s office at (707) 778-4389 or via email at firemarshal@cityofpetaluma.org