

Location of smoke alarms

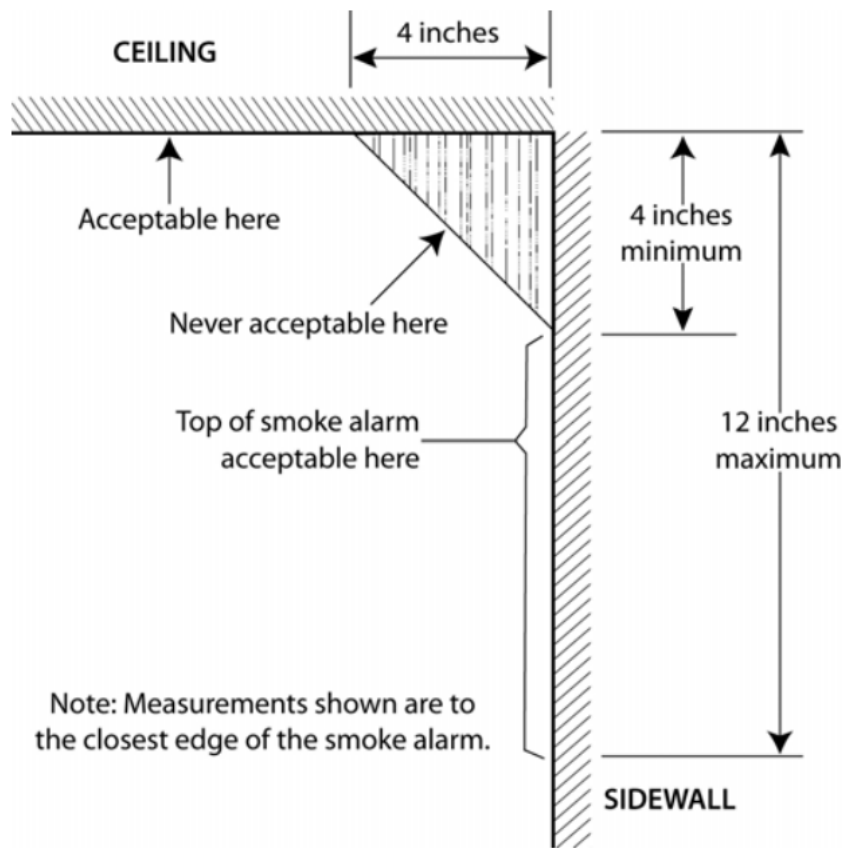


Figure 1
Example of correct installation of a smoke alarm.

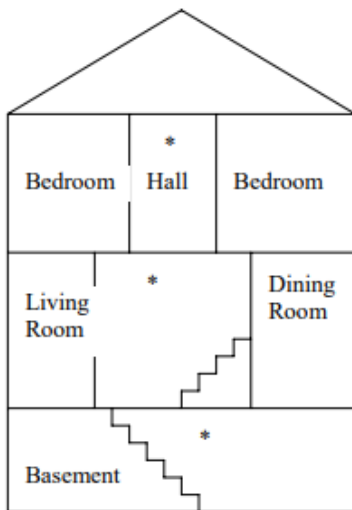


Figure 2
A smoke alarm (indicated by an asterisk) must be installed on each floor.

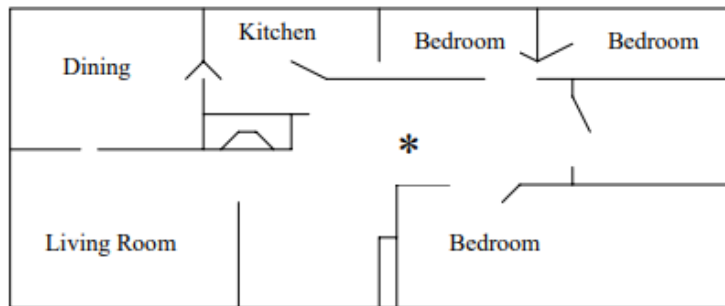


Figure 3
A smoke alarm (indicated by an asterisk) must be installed between the bedrooms and the rest of the dwelling.

BY-LAW CONCERNING THE SERVICE DE SÉCURITÉ INCENDIE DE MONTRÉAL (RCG 12-003)

A functional smoke alarm remains the most effective and least expensive way to save lives in the event of a fire, especially if it breaks out at night, without our knowledge.

Here is an excerpt from the regulations concerning smoke alarms.

18. Functional smoke alarms conforming to standard CAN/ULC-S531 "Smoke Alarms" must be installed:

(1) in every dwelling unit:

(a) on each storey; and

(b) on each storey where bedrooms are located, the smoke alarms must be installed between the bedrooms and the remainder of the storey, except if the bedrooms are accessed by a corridor, in which case the smoke alarms must be installed in the corridor;

(2) in each sleeping room that is not part of a dwelling unit, except in care or detention occupancies that must be equipped with a fire alarm system;

(3) on every floor of a dwelling unit having more than one floor; and

(3) in each corridor and each shared rest or activity area in a residential occupancy for the elderly that is not equipped with a fire alarm and detections system;

(4) in sleeping rooms and in the corridors of a residential board and care occupancy designed in compliance with article 3.1.2.5 of NBC 1995 am. Québec or 2005 am. Québec, if the bedrooms are not equipped with smoke detectors;

(5) in each sleeping room, corridor and shared rest or activity area of a singlefamily type residential occupancy for the elderly;

(6) in each sleeping room, corridor and shared rest or activity area of a building or part of a building housing persons requiring assistance with evacuation.

Except as provided for in article 18.1, the smoke alarms required under paragraph (1) of the first paragraph must be equipped with a non-removable lithium battery.

The smoke alarms required under paragraph (2) of the first paragraph must be installed by permanent connections to an electrical circuit and have no disconnect switch between the overcurrent device and the smoke alarm.

18.1. Subject to the more stringent requirements of articles 18.2 and 18.3, the smoke alarms required under article 18 must, when required by the standard in force at the time of construction or alteration of the building:

(1) be installed by permanent connections to an electrical circuit and have no disconnect switch between the overcurrent device and the smoke alarm; and

(2) be wired so that the activation of one alarm will automatically cause all alarms within the dwelling unit to sound.

18.2. The smoke alarms required under paragraphs (3) to (6) of article 18 must:

(1) be installed by permanent connections to an electrical circuit and have no disconnect switch between the overcurrent device and the smoke alarm;

(2) be wired so that the activation of one alarm will automatically cause all alarms within the dwelling unit to sound;

(3) be wired so that the activation of one alarm in a building housing a residential occupancy for the elderly of the rooming house type will automatically cause all the alarms to sound.

In addition, the smoke alarms required under paragraph (4) of article 18 must:

(1) be of a photoelectric type;

(2) be interconnected and connected to visual signal devices that allow personnel assigned to the sleeping rooms to see from where the smoke alarm is triggered;

(3) be connected to the fire department as provided for in NBC 1995 am. Québec.

18.3. Smoke alarms must be installed on or close to the ceiling in accordance with CAN/ULC-S553, "Installation of Smoke Alarms".

18.4. A manual device may be installed at a specific point in the electrical circuit for the smoke alarm in a dwelling unit to shut off the sound signal emitted by the smoke alarm for no more than 10 minutes; after that, the smoke alarm must re-activate.

18.5. Every smoke alarm must be replaced 10 years after the date of manufacture indicated on the cover. If no date of manufacture is indicated, if it is painted, defective or is modified in a way that could impair its effectiveness, the smoke alarm is considered to be non-compliant and must be replaced without delay.

19. For the purposes of the by-law, a reference to a standard or requirement in effect at the time of construction or alteration of a building constitutes a reference to the standard applicable according to the year of construction or alteration of the building as indicated in the second and third clauses of article 344 of the Québec Safety Code (CQLR, chapter B-1.1, r. 3).

20. Occupants of a dwelling unit must service and maintain the smoke alarms to keep them in good working condition, namely by testing them using the test button on the devices.

For the purposes of the first paragraph, an occupant includes the tenant of a dwelling unit even if they do not occupy the dwelling unit.

20.1. The tenant must inform the owner of the dwelling unit of a missing or defective smoke alarm.

21. In a residential building equipped with a fire alarm system, the good working order of smoke alarms must be verified and the results must be recorded at least once a year in accordance with article 29.

29. A copy of the records of trials, inspections or operations related to the maintenance or operation of equipment and protection and rescue systems must be kept on the same premises as the equipment and systems they pertain to, in accordance with the following requirements:

- (1) the results of the initial inspection or the activation report of every system must be kept for the entire useful life of the systems concerned;
- (2) records of trials, inspections or operations related to the maintenance or operation after the initial trials mentioned in paragraph (1) must be kept in such a way that at least the current and previous record are available;
- (3) despite paragraphs (1) and (2), no record may be destroyed before the prescribed 2-year term.

The records covered by the first paragraph must be accessible on request.