



City of Malibu

23825 Stuart Ranch Road · Malibu, California · 90265-4861
Phone (310) 456-2489 · Fax (310) 456-3356 · www.malibucity.org

Residential Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms For Building Permits Issued After January 1, 2026

General requirements for the installation of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms for residential buildings are based on the 2026 LA County Building Code (LACBC), Residential Code (LACRC), and Fire Code (LACFC). For more information, contact Building Safety staff at mbuilding@malibucity.org or 310-456-2489, ext. 390.

New Construction and Additions

Required smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the permanent building electrical power system (and shall be on the lighting circuit connected within the same room as the smoke alarm). Where two or more smoke alarms or carbon monoxide alarms are required, they shall be interconnected in such a manner that actuation of one shall cause actuation of all detectors in the dwelling unit. (LACBC 907.2.11, LACRC R310, LACRC R311)

All new electrical outlets (including smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, receptacles, switches, lighting, etc.) shall be on circuits protected with a combination arc-fault circuit interrupter. (2026 LA County Electrical Code 210.12)

Remodeled Dwelling Units

For any repair, alterations, or addition, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in accordance with the following location and maintenance provisions. In existing dwelling units, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide may be battery operated. (LACBC 907.2.11, LACRC 310, LACRC 311)

Rooms/Spaces that Require Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Room/Space	Smoke Alarm Required? (LACBC 907.2 and LACRC 310)	Carbon Monoxide Alarm Required? (LACBC 907.2 and LACRC 311)
Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms (i.e. hallway)	Yes	Yes
In each sleeping room	Yes	No, unless a fuel-burning appliance is located within the bedroom or its attached bathroom.
In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements.	Yes	Yes
In enclosed common stairwells of apartment complexes and other multiple-dwelling complexes	Yes	No

In a group R-3.1 (i.e. adult residential facilities), in addition to the above, smoke alarms shall be provided throughout the habitable areas of the dwelling unit except kitchens	Yes	No
--	-----	----

Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Device Location

Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed on the ceiling or wall per manufacturer's installation instructions.

Maintenance

The owner shall be responsible for testing and maintaining detectors in hotels, motels, lodging houses, and common stairwells of apartment complexes and other multiple dwelling complexes. The smoke alarm shall be operable at the time that the tenant takes possession. The apartment complex tenant shall be responsible for notifying the manager or owner if the tenant becomes aware of an inoperable smoke alarm within his or her unit. The owner or authorized agent shall correct any reported deficiencies in the smoke alarm and shall not be in violation of this section for a deficient smoke alarm when he or she has not received notice of the deficiency. (LACFC 907.9 and California Health and Safety Code 13113.7)

It shall be the duty of the Permit Applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes, neither the Building Official nor the jurisdiction shall be liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection.

Construction Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Saturday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
No construction is allowed on Sundays or holidays. Malibu Municipal Code Section 4.2.04(G)