

11-01-08

NEWS FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTORS

City of Winston-Salem

The following information is provided from the Building Inspections Department of the city of Winston-Salem.

Information and questions from builders:

What is this about sprinkling residential homes??

North Carolina has not made any decision at this time.

Smoke Alarms—when are they required?

R313.1 SMOKE ALARMS. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. in each sleeping room.
2. outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom.
3. on each additional story of the dwelling, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bed rooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

All smoke alarms shall be listed and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

R313.1.1 Alterations, repairs and additions:

When interior alterations, repaired or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be provided with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected and hard wired.

Exceptions:

- 1) Smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required to be interconnected and hard wired where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space, or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring and interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

- 2) Repairs to the exterior surfaces of dwellings are exempt from the requirements of this section.

313.2 Power source: In new construction, the required smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from commercial source, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for over current protection. Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power or in buildings that undergo alterations, repairs or additions regulated by section R313.1.1