

Requirements for Photoelectric Alarms

Act 180 of the 2008 Legislative Session established new requirements for the use of photoelectric smoke alarms. Photoelectric-only type of smoke alarms are required to be installed in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of a dwelling, and directly wired to the building electrical service and have a battery backup for all new dwellings. Dwellings that are sold or transferred are required to begin January 1, 2009.

The law allows the use of photoelectric and carbon monoxide combination alarms but it does not allow ionization /photoelectric combination alarms to be used for these specific locations.

Many existing Vermont homes currently have old outdated ionization smoke alarms installed. These old alarms need to be replaced. The division recommends to homeowners that when you are replacing alarms that you update to a photoelectric smoke alarm now and not wait until the time when home is being sold. No home should be without smoke alarms, and ionization alarms should continue to be used until a home can be equipped with new photoelectric alarms.