



Fire Safety Considerations for Short-Term Rental Operators

Smoke Alarms

- Photoelectric type smoke alarms are required in the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms, inside each sleeping room, and on all floor levels including the basement. All newly installed smoke alarms must be hard wired into the buildings electrical system.
- Smoke alarms in sleeping rooms of buildings constructed prior to 1994, may be of the 10-year photoelectric lithium powered tamper resistant type.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. An additional detector shall be installed in each sleeping room that contains a fuel- burning appliance.
- Carbon Monoxide alarms installed or replaced in a dwelling after July 1, 2005, must be directly wired to the building electrical service and have a battery backup.
- Existing One- and Two-family dwellings constructed prior to July 1, 2005, may use plug in style alarm with battery backup or battery power or you may hardwire.

Guard and Handrails

- Landings, decks, porches or platforms more than 30 inches of grade must be provided with guards and intermediate rails spaced no more than 4 inches apart.
- Graspable handrails must be provided on all stairs.

Electrical Safety:

Ground Fault Current Interrupters (GFCI) are required in the following areas;

- Bathrooms, Garages and accessory buildings that have a floor located at or below grade level not intended as habitable room and limited to storage areas, work areas, and areas of similar use, outdoors, Crawl spaces, Unfinished portions or areas of the basement not intended as habitable rooms, kitchens, where the receptacles are installed to serve the countertop surfaces, sinks, where the receptacles are installed within 6ft from the top inside edge of the bowl of the sink, boathouses, bathtubs or shower stalls, where receptacles are installed within 6ft of the outside edge of the bathtub or shower stall and laundry areas.

Secondary Means of Escape from Sleeping Rooms

- Every sleeping room must be provided with a primary and secondary means of escape.
- A window meeting rescue and ventilation requirements can satisfy the secondary means of escape.

Heating System Safety

- Oil, gas, wood, wood pellet and kerosene fuel fired heating systems shall be cleaned and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions and shall be inspected at least once during any 2-year period by a certified fuel service technician or Chimney sweep in the case of

For additional details and information, visit the Code Information & Hot Topic Fire Safety Sheet section of our web page.

<https://firesafety.vermont.gov/buildingcode/codesheets>