



Fire Sprinkler Mandates

State-by-State Data

Beginning with the 2009 edition, the International Residential Code (IRC) has required fire sprinkler systems in all new one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses. Since then, a vast majority of states has removed the requirement from their residential building codes as they have adopted newer editions. The maps and table on the following pages detail the status of residential fire sprinkler mandates in each state. The table includes hyperlinks to state building code agencies as well as relevant documents.

If you have questions or comments about the information in this table, please contact [Dan Buuck](#) at 202-266-8366.

Revised September 2016

Where Fire Sprinkler Mandates Have Been Defeated

For One- and Two-Family Dwellings

Fire Sprinkler Mandate Defeated	Fire Sprinkler Mandate Defeated But Local Jurisdictions Have Authority to Adopt Requirements	Partial Fire Sprinkler Mandate Approved	Fire Sprinkler Mandate Approved
---------------------------------	--	---	---------------------------------

Total: 27

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

Total: 19

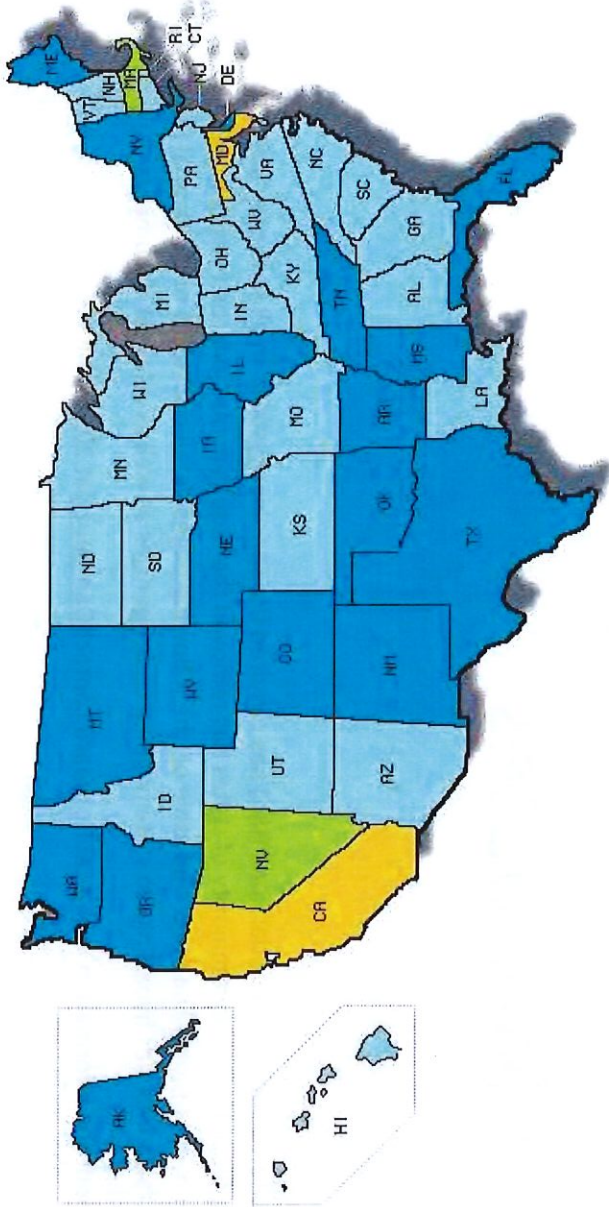
- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Florida
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maine
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington
- Wyoming

Total: 2

- Massachusetts
- Nevada

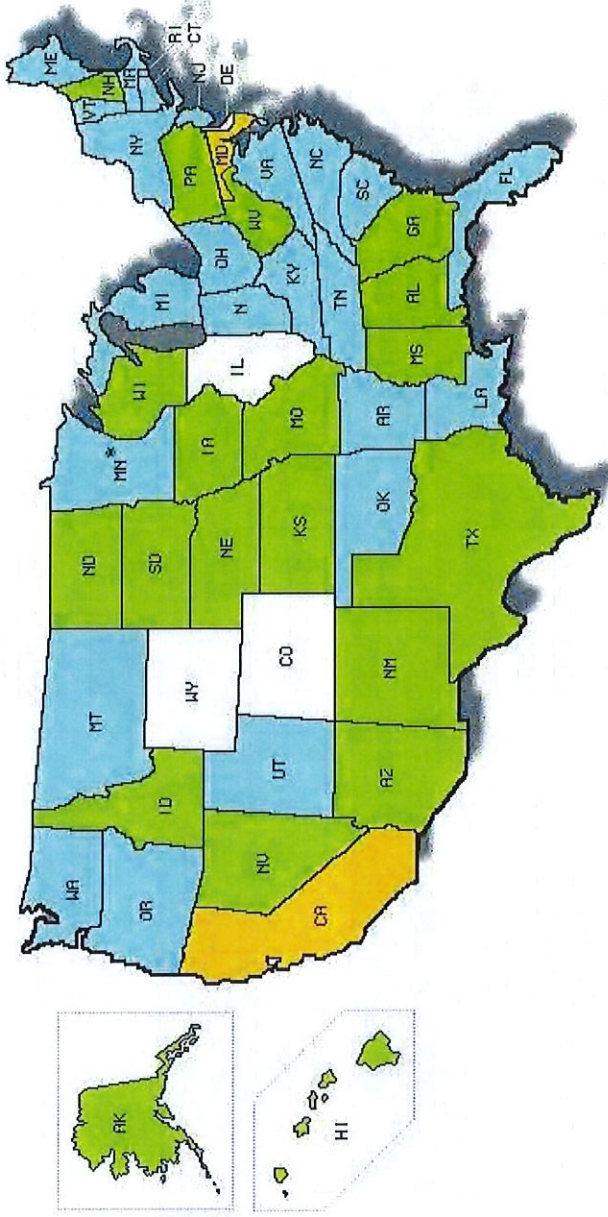
Total: 2

- California
- Maryland



How Fire Sprinkler Mandates Have Been Defeated

Fire Sprinkler Mandate Defeated Through Code Adoption Process	Fire Sprinkler Mandate Defeated Through Legislation	Fire Sprinkler Mandate Approved	No Statewide Code Adoption And No Legislation
Total: 24	Total: 20	Total: 2	Total: 4
- Arkansas - Connecticut - Florida - Indiana - Kentucky - Louisiana - Maine - Massachusetts - Michigan - Minnesota * - Montana - New Jersey - New York - North Carolina - Ohio - Oklahoma - Oregon - Rhode Island - South Carolina - Tennessee - Utah - Vermont - Virginia - Washington	- Alabama - Alaska - Arizona - Georgia - Hawaii - Idaho - Iowa - Kansas - Mississippi - Missouri - Nebraska - Nevada - New Hampshire - New Mexico - North Dakota - Pennsylvania - South Dakota - Texas - West Virginia - Wisconsin	- California - Maryland	- Colorado - Delaware - Illinois - Wyoming



* Minnesota's sprinkler requirement was declared invalid through legal action.

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
	* Local jurisdictions have authority to require fire sprinklers.					
Alabama	No	L	No Statewide Adoption	Energy and Residential Codes Board	Amendments Legislation	
Alaska	No-L	L	No Statewide Adoption	Dept. of Public Safety	Legislation	Municipalities may not mandate fire sprinklers unless they go through a special process which includes at least three public hearings.
Arizona	No	L	No Statewide Adoption		Legislation	Municipalities may still require townhouses to be sprinklered.
Arkansas	No-L	A	2012 IRC Effective 1/1/2014	Fire Marshal		
California	Yes		2012 IRC Effective 1/1/2014	Building Standards Commission	Adopted Code (Chapter 3) Sprinklers in CA Codes	Residential sprinklers have been required in CA codes since the 2010 edition was adopted.
Colorado	No-L		No Statewide Adoption	Office of the State Architect		
Connecticut	No	A	2009 IRC Effective 2/14/2014	Office of the State Building Inspector	Amendments	

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
Delaware	No-L		No Statewide Adoption	State Fire Marshal	Mandatory Option Legislation	Builders of new, one- and two- family homes are required by legislation to give buyers a cost estimate for installing fire sprinklers and information from the State Fire Marshal's Office about sprinkler benefits (mandatory option).
District of Columbia	Yes		2012 IRC Effective 3/28/2014	Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs	Adopted Code	
Florida	No-L	A	2012 IRC Effective 6/30/2015	Building Commission	Adopted Code	
Georgia	No	L	2012 IRC Effective 1/1/2014	Dept. of Community Affairs	Amendments Legislation	
Hawaii	No	L	2006 IBC Effective 4/16/2010	Building Code Council	Amendments Legislation	
Idaho	No	L	2012 IRC Effective 1/1/2015	Division of Building Safety	Legislation	
Illinois	No-L		No Statewide Adoption	Capital Development Board		
Indiana	No	A	2003 IRC Effective 9/11/2005	Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission	Amendments	The adopted model code edition (2003 IRC) does not include residential sprinklers.
Iowa	No-L	L	No Statewide Adoption	Building Code Bureau	Amendments Legislation	
Kansas	No	L	No Statewide Adoption	Office of the State Fire Marshal	Legislation	

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
Kentucky	No	A	2012 IRC Effective 10/1/2014	Dept. of Housing, Buildings and Construction	Amendments	
Louisiana	No	A	2011 IRC Effective 1/1/2015	State Uniform Construction Code Council	Amendments	
Maine	No-L	A	2009 IRC Effective 9/28/2011	Bureau of Building Codes & Standards	Amendments	
Maryland	Yes		2015 IRC Effective 1/1/2015	Codes Administration	Amendments	
Massachusetts	No	A	2009 IRC Effective 2/1/2011	Board of Building Regulations and Standards	Amendments	Sprinkler systems are required in one- and two-family dwellings with an area larger than 14,400 square feet. The area calculation includes basements, but not garages.
Michigan	No	A	2015 IRC Effective 2/8/2016	LARA Building Division	Amendments	
Minnesota	No	A/ Legal Action	2012 IRC Effective 1/24/2015	Construction Codes and Licensing Division	Amendments Court of Appeals Decision	Townhomes are required to be sprinklered. The Court of Appeals declared the requirement for installing fire sprinkler systems in one-family dwellings invalid, because the 4,500 square foot threshold was deemed arbitrary.
Mississippi	No-L	L	No Statewide Adoption	State Fire Marshal	Legislation	

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
Missouri	No	L	No Statewide Adoption		Mandatory Option Legislation	Builders of new, one- and two-family homes are required by legislation to give buyers the option of installing a fire sprinkler system (mandatory option).
Montana	No-L	A	2012 IRC Effective 11/6/2014	Building Codes Bureau	Amendments	
Nebraska	No-L	L	2012 IRC Effective: 8/30/2015	Administrative Services	Legislation	
Nevada	No-L	L	No Statewide Adoption	State Fire Marshal	Legislation	Local jurisdictions may require sprinkler systems in dwelling units with an area of livable space larger than 5,000 square feet. They also may require sprinklers in smaller dwelling units under certain circumstances.
New Hampshire	No	L	2009 IRC Effective: 4/1/2010	State Building Code Review Board	Amendments Legislation Veto Letter	The residential code was adopted with the fire sprinkler requirement in place, but legislation prohibits local planning boards from requiring sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings. The governor's veto of the bill was overturned.
New Jersey	No	A	2015 IRC Effective: 9/21/2015	Dept. of Community Affairs	Amendments Legislation Veto Statement	Legislation requiring sprinklers in new, one- and two-family homes was passed, but it was successfully vetoed by the governor.

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
New Mexico	No-L	L	2009 IRC Effective: 1/28/2011	Construction Industries Division	Amendments Legislation	
New York	No-L	L	2006 IRC Effective: 12/28/2010	Code Enforcement & Administration Residential Sprinkler Task Group	Amendments Legislation	Sprinkler systems are required in dwellings that are three stories high. Builders of new, one- and two-family homes are required by legislation to give buyers the option of installing a fire sprinkler system (mandatory option).
North Carolina	No	A	2012 IRC Effective: 1/1/2012	Office of State Fire Marshal	Adopted Code (Chapter 3)	
North Dakota	No	L	2012 IRC Effective: 1/1/2014	Div. of Community Services	Amendments Legislation	
Ohio	No	A	2009 IRC Effective 1/1/2013	Board of Building Standards	Amendments	
Oklahoma	No-L	A	2009 IRC Effective 7/15/2011	Uniform Building Code Commission	Amendments	Townhomes are required to be sprinklered.
Oregon	No-L	A	2009 IRC Effective: 7/1/2011	Building Codes Division	Adopted Code (Chapter 3)	Local jurisdictions have very limited ability to amend the code. Approval through the Building Codes Division is required.
Pennsylvania	No	L	2015 IRC Effective 12/31/2015	UCC Review and Advisory Council	Adoption Legislation	Townhomes are required to be sprinklered. Builders of new, one- and two-family homes are required by legislation to give buyers the option of installing a fire sprinkler system (mandatory option).

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
Rhode Island	No	A	2012 IRC Effective 7/1/2013	Building Code Commission	Amendments	Townhomes are required to be sprinklered.
South Carolina	No	A	2015 IRC Effective 7/1/2016	Building Code Council	Amendments	
South Dakota	No	L	No Statewide Adoption	State Fire Marshal	Legislation	
Tennessee	No-L	A	2009 IRC Effective 6/27/2010	State Fire Marshal	Amendments	Townhomes are required to be sprinklered.
Texas	No-L	L	2000 IRC Effective 1/1/2002	State Fire Marshal's Office	Adoption Legislation	Later editions of the code are required to be enforced in unincorporated areas and areas specified by the Commissioner of Insurance.
Utah	No	A	2012 IRC Effective 7/1/2013	Uniform Building Code Commission	Amendments	
Vermont	No	A	2012 NFPA 101 is referenced in IBC for R-3 Occupancies Effective 7/1/2014	Building Code and Safety Services	Amendments	Section 24.3.5.1 of NFPA 101 was deleted.
Virginia	No	A	2012 IRC Effective 7/14/2014	Dept. of Housing and Community Development	Amendments	
Washington	No-L	A	2015 IRC Effective 7/1/2016	State Building Code Council	Amendments	
West Virginia	No	L	2009 IRC Effective 9/1/2013	Office of the State Fire Marshal	Adoption Legislation	

State	Sprinkler Mandate (Yes/No/No-L*)	Defeated by Adoption or Legislation	Code Adopted and Effective Date	State Building Code Agency	Documents	Notes
Wisconsin	No	L	Uniform Dwelling Code Effective 4/1/2009	<u>Dept. of Safety and Professional Services</u>	<u>Adopted Code Legislation</u>	
Wyoming	No-L		No Statewide Adoption	<u>Dept. of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety</u>		