

Knox County Code Administration & Inspection

2018 IRC – Residential Garage Requirements

(865) 215-2325



Rev: 022019

The below information is based on the 2018 International Residential Code as amended by Knox County. This is not an all inclusive document and the Codes office should be contacted for further information.

A series wired, battery back up smoke alarm is required in the garage. (NFPA 72 fire alarms are OK)

The garage shall be separated from the residence with 1/2" gypsum board on the walls and ceiling. A garage beneath a habitable room shall be separated with 5/8" type X gypsum board on the ceiling. R302.6

Ducts in the garage must be a minimum of 26 gauge sheet steel and seal the penetration. R302.5.2

The ignition source of gas fired equipment must be a minimum of 18" above the garage floor. G2408.2

Unless the appliance is installed with a minimum clearance of 6 feet above the floor, a bollard (set in concrete) must be installed to protect the units in the garage from vehicles. G2408.3

HVAC registers located in a garage must have an approved fire damper installed.

The door from the garage to the house must be a 1 3/8" solid wood door, steel or a 20-minute rated door. No glass is allowed in the door unless it is fire rated. Doors are NOT required to be equipped with self-closing or automatic closing devices. R 302.5.1

The floor must slope towards the vehicle entry to facilitate movement of liquids.

These requirements apply for garages attached to a dwelling or within 3 feet of the dwelling on the same lot (R302.6).
A garage can be defined as a room or space (not part of the living space) that directly communicates with a private garage or has an opening that is greater than 6'-0" in clear width that directly communicates to the outdoors or another garage and is capable of combustible storage.