

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Smoke alarms are a very important part of keeping your family and your home safe from fire. Fire is fast. Within just a few minutes, a room can be completely engulfed in flames. Just a few minutes more, and the entire house is on fire. However, the smoke produced from a fire is also fast... and deadly.

Many home fires happen at night, when most people are asleep. Inhaling smoke actually puts a person into a deeper sleep. It is critical to have a warning system to help you and your family wake up and escape the fire. The best warning system? Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms. Smoke alarms can actually alert you to the danger when the fire is smoldering, before flames have broken out.

Sadly, although most homes have smoke alarms installed, 1 out of every 5 homes doesn't have a single working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms do not last forever. Batteries and sensors can and do fail. To protect your home and family, you need to install, maintain and replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.

YOU CAN CUT THE CHANCE OF DYING IN A HOME FIRE IN HALF BY INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING SMOKE ALARMS.

FIRE FACTS

- On average, every 3-½ hours a person dies from a home fire.
- Over half of deaths from home fires happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- 67% of people who die from home fires live in housing without smoke alarms or with smoke alarms that were not working.
- Most homes have smoke alarms installed, however, 1 out of every 5 homes doesn't have a single working smoke alarm.
- 75% of home fire deaths are caused by smoke inhalation.

Smoke inhalation is responsible for 75% of fire fatalities. A well-maintained smoke alarm alerts you of danger while items are smoldering, but before flames break out.

Create and practice a fire escape plan. When a smoke alarm sounds, immediately begin your escape plan. Once your family gathers at your safe meeting place, use a cell phone or a neighbor's phone to call the fire department.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
SMOKE ALARM SAFETY VISIT:



DON'T WAIT!

CHECK THE DATE!

**REPLACE SMOKE
ALARMS EVERY**

1  **YEARS**





TYPES OF SMOKE ALARMS

There are two types of fires, smoldering fires and fast flaming fires. Fast flaming fires are hot and fast moving. Smoldering fires produce a lot of thick toxic smoke before breaking into flame. While either type of fire can be deadly, more people die from smoke inhalation instead of direct exposure to flames.

There are also two types of smoke alarms, Photoelectric and Ionization.

Photoelectric smoke alarms have a light source and a photo sensor. When smoke particles enter the alarm, it scatters the light, activating the photo sensor and sounding the alarm.

Ionization alarms have a chamber with a small amount of radioactive material inside. When smoke particles enter the chamber, it disturbs an electrical current, as ionized air molecules attach to the smoke particles and sounds the alarm.

It's best to have both types of smoke alarms installed in your home, but research is suggesting that photoelectric smoke alarms may be better at the early detection of smoke particles from both types of fire. There are some smoke alarms that employ both ionization and photoelectric sensors.

Battery operated smoke alarms are easy to install. New models that offer 10-year batteries reduce maintenance and may increase safety. Electrical hard-wired smoke alarms are also available, but must be installed by a licensed electrician.



Interconnected smoke alarms provide a higher level of protection. In an interconnected system, the smoke alarms communicate through wires or wirelessly. When smoke sets off one alarm, the other interconnected alarms also sound, providing an early warning of a fire.

When selecting smoke alarms, make sure they have the approval of a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriter's Laboratories.

For people with hearing loss, install smoke alarms with flashing strobe lights and vibrating alarms.



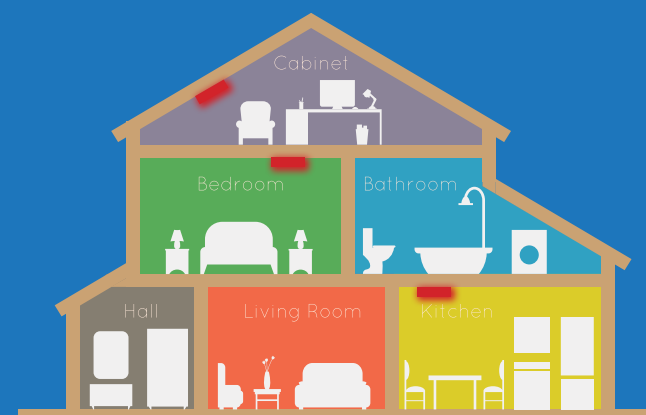
PROPER PLACEMENT

Follow manufacturer's instructions on where and how to properly install smoke alarms. In general, smoke alarms should be installed either on the ceiling 4" to 12" away from walls, high on a wall 4" to 12" away from the ceiling, and at least 3 feet away from windows, doors or air ducts. Install alarms in locations where they are easily accessible for testing and maintenance.

Odds are you need more than just one smoke alarm. You should place smoke alarms on every level of your home (including the basement and attic), outside each sleeping area and inside bedrooms.

Avoid placing smoke alarms in the kitchen, bathroom or garage as cooking fumes, steam and other air particles can lead to false alarms or damage the device's detector.

At Least One Smoke Alarm on Every Level of Your Home!



MAKE SURE THE ALARMS ARE WORKING

Smoke alarms with dead batteries or broken sensors offer no protection for you and your family. It is vitally important to make sure smoke alarms are working properly. This means testing smoke alarms once a month and replacing batteries two times a year (change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time), or when the smoke alarm chirps.

Never "borrow" batteries from a smoke alarm.

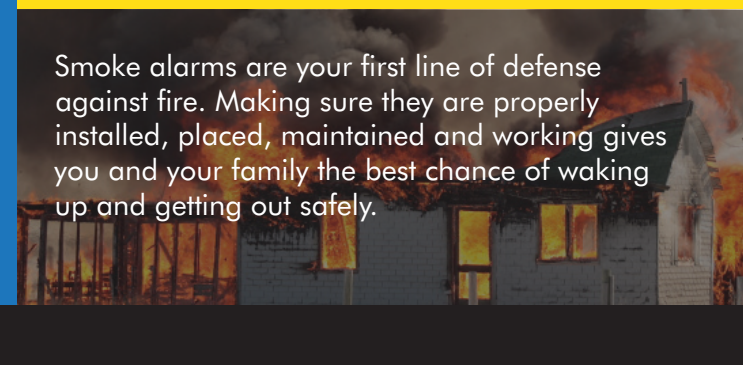
Keep smoke alarms free of dust and other debris, like spider webs. Every 6 months, gently vacuum alarms. If remodeling, be sure to protect smoke alarms from paint and other contaminants.

KNOW THE DATE

REPLACE ALARMS AFTER 10 YEARS

Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years regardless of their condition. Most smoke alarms have a printed manufactured date somewhere on the unit. Consider placing a sticker on the side of the smoke alarm, or writing the install date inside the alarm's cover to remind you of its age.

Don't Let Your Life Go Up In Smoke



Smoke alarms are your first line of defense against fire. Making sure they are properly installed, placed, maintained and working gives you and your family the best chance of waking up and getting out safely.