

Smoke Detectors

TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM REGULARLY!

1. Why should you test your smoke alarm?

You want to make sure that your smoke alarm is working at all times. If you test your alarm regularly, you can be sure that you will be alerted if a fire starts in your home.

2. When should you test your smoke alarm?

Follow the manufacturer's instructions test your smoke alarm weekly and monthly. **REMEMBER:** only a working smoke alarm can protect you and your family from fire.

3. How should you test your smoke alarm?

Test your alarm weekly by pushing and holding the alarm test button until the alarm sounds.

Test it monthly using actual smoke. One manufacturer suggests that you hold a piece of cotton string with pliers. Light the string with a safety match and extinguish the flame. Hold the string 15 centimetres (6 inches) below and to one side of the smoke alarm.

Blow smoke towards the unit until the alarm sounds. If your alarm does not work, replace the battery and retest it. If the alarm still does not work, you should replace the smoke alarm.

4. When should you replace the battery in your smoke alarm?

Install a new battery at least once a year. Many battery powered units beep intermittently when the battery needs replacing. Replace the battery immediately when the low-power warning beeps.

5. Is there any other maintenance you should do to ensure that your smoke alarm works?

Vacuum the smoke alarm every six months. Open the cover and gently vacuum the interior of the unit using the soft bristle attachment. Keep the vacuum nozzle from touching the unit. If your smoke alarm is electrically powered disconnect the power to the alarm before vacuuming and restore the power when you are finished.

HELP YOUR SMOKE ALARM SAVE YOUR LIFE...

1. Why do you need a smoke alarm?

It is the law and it is a FACT that most fire deaths and injuries occur at night while people are sleeping. You should ensure that you and your family will be awakened in time to escape the smoke and flames if a fire starts in your home. A working smoke alarm will detect the fire and sound an alarm, giving you time to escape.

2. How many smoke alarms do you need?

You should have one smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and one on every level of the home, including the basement. If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, you should install smoke alarms in the bedrooms.

3. What should you look for when buying a smoke alarm?

Look for the ULC label on the smoke alarm. This Underwriters Laboratories of Canada label indicates that the unit has been tested and certified by a recognized test organization.

4. Where should you place a smoke alarm?

Because smoke rises, you should mount alarms on the ceilings or high up on the wall. Always follow manufacturer's installation instructions.

Most smoke alarms can be installed on the wall or ceiling, however if you mount the smoke alarm on the wall, keep the top of the alarm at least 15 centimeters (6 inches) away from the ceiling. If you mount the unit on the ceiling, keep it in the center of the ceiling at least 15 centimeters (6 inches) from the nearest wall.

*There are locations you should avoid when installing a smoke alarm, such as bathrooms or close to ceiling fans. **Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations.***

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