

## Installing and Maintaining Your Smoke Alarms.

- ◆ Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Install most battery-powered and plug-in alarms using only a drill and a screwdriver. Plug-in alarms must have restraining devices at the plug.
- ◆ Have a qualified electrician install alarms that are hard-wired into your house wiring.
- ◆ Never connect an alarm to a circuit that can be turned off from a wall switch.
- ◆ Wire alarms together so that if one sounds, they all sound.
- ◆ Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.



**BE SURE EVERYONE  
SLEEPING IN YOUR HOME  
CAN HEAR YOUR SMOKE  
ALARMS.**

- ◆ Test alarms monthly.
- ◆ Replace batteries at least once a year. EX. When you set the clocks back in the fall, or whenever an alarm “chirps” to tell you the battery is low.
- ◆ Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.
- ◆ Consider installing smoke alarms with a “long life” (10 year) battery. These alarms must also be tested once a month.
- ◆ Clean your alarms regularly, following manufacturer's instructions. You can sometimes use a vacuum cleaner without removing the alarm's cover.
- ◆ Never paint a smoke alarm.

**NEVER “BORROW”  
A SMOKE ALARM BATTERY.**

**SMOKE  
DETECTORS  
SAVE  
LIVES**

# HOME SMOKE ALARMS

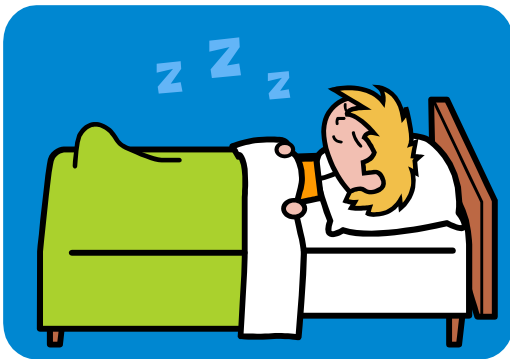


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## IT'S A FACT:

# SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.



**The majority of fatal home fires happen at night when people are asleep. Smoke alarms give you time to escape.**

### Choosing Your Alarm

- Be sure the smoke alarm you buy bears the label of an independent testing lab.
- Some alarms run on household current and include battery back-up, which require professional installation.
- Some alarms run just on batteries, which you can usually install yourself.
- “Long-Life” alarms have “10-Year” batteries that are intended to last the life of the smoke alarm.
- Some alarms use an “ionization” type smoke-sensing system. Others use “photoelectric” sensors. Both types offer adequate protection.
- Some alarms have “pause” (silencer or hush) buttons so you can deactivate them if cooking fumes or steam set off a “nuisance alarm.” These models re-activate automatically after 8-10 minutes.
- For people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, some alarms flash a strobe-like light.



### Placing Your Alarms

- Install alarms on every level of your home - including the basement.
- Install an alarm outside each sleeping area. Make sure everyone can clearly hear and recognize the sound of all smoke alarms at all times. If you sleep with bedrooms doors closed, have a qualified electrician install interconnected smoke alarms in each room so that when one sounds they all sound.

- Some studies have shown that some children may not awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. For more information on this issue, smoke alarms, and escape planning visit [www.nfpa.org/factsheets](http://www.nfpa.org/factsheets).
- On floors without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room and/or near the stairways to the upper level.
- NFPA also suggests you install alarms in dining rooms, family rooms, utility rooms, hallways, and other living areas.
- Don't install alarms closer than 3 feet from a kitchen or bathroom door.
- Don't install alarms in locations where the temperature may be too low or too high.
- Mount alarms high on a wall or on the ceiling, because smoke rises.
  1. Wall Mounting: position the top of the alarm 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling.
  2. Ceiling Mounting: position alarms at least 4 inches away from the nearest wall.
- In a room with a pitched ceiling, mount the alarm at or near the ceiling's highest point.
- Basement alarms should be located near the stairway leading to the floor above.
- Don't mount an alarm within 3 feet of a forced-air supply register.