

Is there a specific location where smoke alarms should or should not be installed?

- Smoke alarms should be mounted in the middle of the ceiling if possible. If not, alarms should be mounted on the wall at least four inches from the wall or corner. For wall mounting (if allowed by building codes), the top edge of smoke alarms should be placed between 4 and 12 inches from the wall/ceiling line.
- Do not install smoke alarms where drafts from fans or air ducts can reach them. Drafts can blow smoke away from the unit, preventing it from reaching the sensing chamber.
- Avoid poorly ventilated kitchens, garages, and furnace rooms. Keep alarm at least 20 feet from the sources of combustion particles if possible.
- Avoid very damp, humid or steaming areas, or directly near bath rooms with showers. Keep alarm at least 10 feet from showers, saunas, dishwashers, etc.
- See your manufacturer's installation/users manual for more instructions on placement of alarms.

How can I make sure my smoke alarm is working properly?

According to the NFPA, the main reason for non-operational smoke alarms is dead or missing batteries. Caring for smoke alarms can be easily done.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a week.
- Clean the smoke alarm monthly by gently vacuuming the outside of the smoke alarm using the soft brush attachment on your vacuum. Never use water, cleaners, or solvents since they may damage the unit. Test your alarm after cleaning.
- If the smoke alarm becomes contaminated by excessive dirt, dust, and/or grime, and cannot be cleaned to avoid unwanted alarms, replace the unit immediately.
- Relocate the unit if it sounds frequent, unwanted alarms. For example, if located too close to your stove, cooking smoke may activate the alarm even when there is no fire.
- Change the batteries every six months or when the low battery signal is heard.
- Be Safe... Replace! Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

Is there anything I can do to help prevent fires in my home?

- Keep furnaces in working order; schedule a qualified technician to check it at least once a year.
- Use a fireplace screen and have chimneys cleaned annually.
- Immediately unplug any appliance that is sparking, overheating or emitting unusual smells.
- Do not smoke in bed and make sure all cigarettes are saturated with water before discarding.
- Use the correct size fuses and do not overload outlets, circuits or extension cords.
- Do not use worn-out electrical wiring or run it under rugs or out windows or doors.

Visit www.firstalert.com for a room-by-room safety audit.

For more information, contact
First Alert® Consumer Affairs
1-800-323-9005
or visit our website:
www.firstalert.com

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What you need
to know about

Smoke Alarms



First Alert®

Family First. Safety Always.™

Choosing a Smoke Alarm

You know how important it is to have working smoke alarms in your home. Smoke alarms can help provide early warning of smoke or fire. Selecting the best alarms for your home may not seem simple. But, with a few basic facts, selecting and maintaining smoke alarms can be easily done.

Consider the following when selecting smoke alarms for your home:

1. Where do you need smoke alarms installed?

- The NFPA recommends installing a smoke alarm on every level and one in every bedroom or sleeping area of a home. See the house in the blue section to help determine how many smoke alarms should be installed in the home.

2. What type of smoke alarms do you need?

- Smoke alarms can be powered in three ways. Choose the power source based upon on the your desired location for the smoke alarm.



Battery Operated

120V AC Hardwired

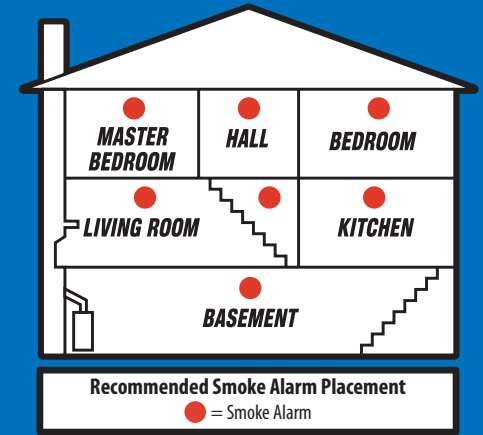
120V AC Hardwired with Battery Back up

- Battery powered (operates by battery). Battery powered alarms are easy to install in most any room.
- 120V AC hardwired (wired into your current electrical system). These smoke alarms can be interconnected with up to 12 BRK Electronics® brand smoke alarms (see the users manual). Hardwired smoke alarms must be installed in accordance with all local electrical codes, and should only be initially installed by a qualified electrician. Replacing your existing 120V AC hardwired alarm is easy (see the users manual for instructions).
- Combination 120V AC hardwired alarms with battery back up (wired into your homes current electrical system, with the added benefit of battery back-up). Alarm works during power outages.

Recommended Placement of Your Smoke Alarms

How many smoke alarms should be installed in the home?

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 50%. That's important because a home fire starts every 83 seconds! * The faster you know about a fire, the faster you can start moving your family outside. Before you choose your smoke alarms, consider how many you need and where you should install them.



*Source: National Fire Protection Association

3. Did you know there are different smoke sensors used in smoke alarms?

- Two types of sensors used in smoke alarms: Ionization and Photoelectric

What you should know about smoke alarm sensing technologies

While all smoke alarms are designed to detect smoke, certain sensing technologies react differently to certain types of fires.



PHOTOELECTRIC SENSING TECHNOLOGY is generally more sensitive than Ionization Sensing Technology at detecting large particles, which tend to be produced in greater amounts by smoldering fires, which may smolder for hours before bursting into flame.



IONIZATION SENSING TECHNOLOGY is generally more sensitive than Photoelectric Sensing Technology at detecting small particles, which tend to be produced in greater amounts by flaming fires, which consume combustible materials rapidly and spread quickly.

What matters is that you provide your family with the maximum in fire-safety protection for all possible conditions. So be sure your home is equipped with both Ionization and Photoelectric smoke sensing technologies.

4. What special features should you look for?

All smoke alarms have a test-button that allows you to ensure the alarm is in working condition. Smoke alarms should be tested weekly. There are additional features you may want to consider for added convenience:

- **Remote-Controlled Test/Silence:** This exclusive feature allows you to use most standard TV/VCR remote controls to test and silence the smoke alarm. Just point your existing remote control at the smoke alarm, press any button and hold for 5 seconds to test or silence the alarm. No programming necessary.
- **Smoke/CO combination alarm with voice and location:** When programmed, voice tells you location of unit and if smoke or carbon monoxide is detected.
- **Escape Light:** When the smoke alarm sounds, the escape light feature is activated, illuminating a light to help you exit the area.
- **Dual Sensor:** The dual technology smoke alarm consists of both Photoelectric and Ionization smoke sensing technologies in one unit.
- **Lithium battery:** A lithium battery can power a smoke alarm or extended periods of time without changing the battery.
- **Smoke/CO combination alarm:** This alarm combines a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm into one unit.
- **Silence button:** This button allows you to quiet the smoke alarm temporarily during an unwanted alarm, such as those created by cooking smoke. Some silence buttons can also temporarily silence the alarm's low battery alert.