

Need assistance?

If you would like help testing your smoke alarms or preparing a home fire escape plan, Toronto Fire Services can assist you.

**Protect
your family.**

**Protect
your home.**

Prevention, Detection, and Escape

For the fire prevention office
in your area,
visit
toronto.ca/fire
or call

3 • 1 • 1

3 Smoke Alarms



What you need to know



3 Smoke Alarms

Protect your family and home

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are sleeping. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound to alert you.

Equip your home with a smoke alarm

The Ontario Fire Code requires that every home have a working smoke alarm.

Choose the best alarm

There are many different types of smoke alarms to choose from. Smoke alarms can be electrically connected, battery operated or both.

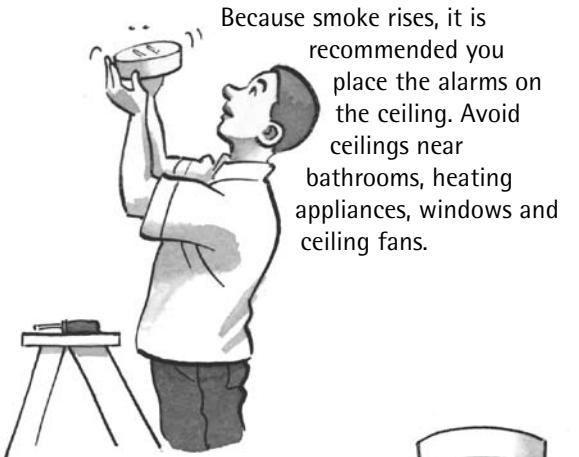


Install more than one



Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near each sleeping area. Remember to replace alarms that are more than 10 years old. Smoke alarms don't last forever.

Where to install smoke alarms



Because smoke rises, it is recommended you place the alarms on the ceiling. Avoid ceilings near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows and ceiling fans.

Test your alarm

Test your smoke alarms regularly by pressing the test button. You can also test your alarms by using smoke from a smouldering cotton string.



Replace batteries regularly



When the alarm chirps once a minute (low battery warning) immediately replace the battery.

Install a new battery in each alarm once a year. Here are some hints to help you remember: On your birthday give your alarms new batteries. Change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time.

Maintain alarms



Dust can clog a smoke alarm, so gently vacuum alarms every six months using a soft brush. Never vacuum electrically connected alarms unless you shut off the power. Test your unit when finished cleaning.

Prepare and Practice



Draw a floor plan showing how you and your family would escape a fire in your home. Look for two ways out of each room and have a pre-arranged meeting place outside. Regularly practice with every member of your household. Once outside, call 9-1-1 from a safe location.

When installing, testing, and maintaining smoke alarms, make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions.