

Alarming facts!

On average 46 people die in fires nationally every year. Tragically most of these deaths could have been prevented if a **working smoke / heat alarm** had been present in the home.



FACT!

10 year smoke alarms are available as ionisation or optical alarms and are fitted with a long life lithium battery or a sealed power pack that lasts for 10 years.

FACT!

A national survey on smoke alarm ownership carried out recently, found that there are over 300,000 households who do not have any smoke alarms installed!

Testing and maintenance

Smoke alarms require very little maintenance but to ensure it operates when needed:

- ✓ Test the smoke alarm once a week by pushing and holding the test button until it activates.
- ✓ Change the battery once every year.
- ✓ Every 6 months, vacuum and brush the casing to get rid of dust.
- ✓ Every 10 years, replace the smoke alarm.



Smoke / Heat Alarms



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fire safety
Be on your guard

How many smoke / heat alarms do I need?

- ✓ A smoke alarm in every room (except the bath room and garage) will provide maximum protection. A heat alarm should be fitted in the kitchen.
- ✓ It is essential that smoke alarms are fitted in every hall and landing.



Where do I fit the smoke / heat alarms?

- ✓ On the ceiling as close to the centre of the room as possible.
- ✓ Keep in mind your ability to hear the smoke alarm at night with the door closed.

There are 2 types of Smoke Alarm

“Ionisation” and “Optical”

1. Ionisation Smoke Alarm

The cheapest and most common type. Very sensitive to small particles of smoke from “flaming” fires like chip pans. Will detect this type of fire before the smoke gets too thick.

2. Optical Smoke Alarm

More expensive type but more effective at detecting larger particles from “slow burning” fires such as smouldering foam or P.V.C. wiring.

Evacuation

The purpose of a Smoke / Heat Alarm is to give an early warning of an outbreak of fire! If the Smoke / Heat Alarm activates, know what to do.

Make sure to:

- ✓ Plan an evacuation drill with all of your family and practice it regularly.
- ✓ When practising your evacuation drill have an alternative exit in case your primary exit is blocked by fire.
- ✓ Have a meeting point in a safe place outside of the house.
- ✓ All escape routes should be kept clear day and night.
- ✓ Keep keys to doors and windows easily and immediately available.



FACT!

Smoke inhalation, not heat or flames, causes the majority of fire deaths. It can take as little as 3 minutes to die from smoke inhalation.

FACT!

Most fires happen at night when people are asleep. Smoke does not always wake people up but can actually put them into a deeper sleep.

FACT!

Smoke / Heat Alarms do not “put out” fires!

