

Smoke Alarm Maintenance

Always read your instruction manual before installation of your smoke alarm.



Weekly

Test your alarm at least once a week
If the alarm does not test properly:-

- Be sure the alarm is clean and dust - free
- Install a fresh battery (as stated in the manual) and test alarm again



Monthly

Clean the alarm at least once a month, using a soft dry cloth. Never use water, cleaners or solvents as they may damage the unit. Then test the smoke alarm.



Monthly

Gently vacuum the outside of the Smoke Alarm using your vacuum cleaner soft brush attachment. Test the smoke alarm after this process.



It is recommend that you change you battery at least once a year. (Using the replacement batteries listed in the manual)

Regardless of the manufacturer's suggested battery life you **MUST** replace the battery immediately once the unit starts "chirping" (the "low battery warning")

The low battery warning should last for 30 days, but you should replace the battery immediately and carry out the weekly test to continue your protection

Install smoke alarms:

- On every level of your home, including finished attics.
- In the hall near every sleeping area. If your home has multiple sleeping areas, install a unit in each.
- If a hall is over 7.5 meters (25 feet) long, install an alarm at each end.
- Inside every bedroom, especially if people sleep with doors closed.
- At the top of the ground-to-first floor and subsequent floor staircase, and at the bottom of the ground floor staircase.
- On ceilings install smoke alarms as close to the centre of the ceiling as possible. If this is not possible, install the smoke alarm at least 300mm (12 inches) from the wall or corner.
- Where temperatures normally remain between 4°C (40°F) and 38°C (100°F).

Locations to avoid:

- Where combustion particles are produced (these are produced when something burns). Areas to avoid include kitchens, garages and boiler rooms. Keep units at least 3 meters (10 feet), and preferably 6 meters (20 feet) if possible from the sources of combustion particles (cookers, boilers, space heaters).
- In very damp, humid or steamy areas keep units at least 3 meters (10 feet) away from bathrooms, toilets, showers, dishwashers, etc.
- Where the temperatures are regularly below 4°C (40°F) or above 38°C (100°F), including unheated buildings, outdoor rooms, or porches.
- Very dusty, dirty or greasy areas. Do not install smoke alarms directly over cookers. Make sure that smoke alarms in laundry rooms are regularly cleaned.
- Near fresh air vents, ceiling fans, or in very drafty areas. Drafts can blow smoke away from the unit, preventing it from reaching the sensing chamber.
- In insect infested areas. Insects can clog openings to the sensing chamber and cause nuisance alarms.
- Less than 300mm (12 inches) away from light fittings. Electrical "noise" can interfere with the sensor i.e. fluorescent lights.
- Where the bottom edge of the wall mounted smoke alarm is below the level of a door opening would be.
- In rooms which are being decorated, painted or artexed.
- In "dead air" spaces*. "Dead air" space may prevent smoke from reaching the Smoke Alarm.

*Dead Air Space:- is a part of a room where air can not circulate