



Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

Smoke alarms save lives. Testing smoke alarms should be an important part of your holiday preparations. Protect your family, guests, and home with properly installed and maintained smoke alarms.

Installation Tips

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that they all sound if one sounds.
- Purchase smoke alarms from a reputable retailer that you trust.
- Choose alarms that bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Install smoke alarms at least 10 feet from cooking appliances to reduce the possibility of nuisance alarms.
- If possible, alarms should be mounted in the center of a ceiling.
- If mounted on a wall, they should be located 6 to 12 inches below the ceiling.
- Avoid locating alarms near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows or ceiling fans.

Maintenance Tips

- Smoke alarms should be tested once a month by pressing the TEST button.
- Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, at least once a year.
- If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, they should be replaced immediately.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, at least every ten years.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows the sound of the smoke alarm and what it means.

Visit www.holidaysafety.org for more tips and tools to help keep you safe this season.