

# SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

Smoke alarms may be the cheapest, easiest and most effective means for protecting your family and your home from a fire, as long as they're functioning. According to the National Fire Protection Association, three out of four in-home fire deaths occur in homes without a working smoke alarm.

## 3 Types of Smoke Alarms

### Hard Wired

Hardwired smoke alarms operate off a home's electricity, but still rely on batteries as a backup if the power goes out.

### Battery Operated

These units work on battery power alone. Some newer models have batteries that last 10 years.

### Interconnected

Most hardwired alarms are interconnected, meaning if one goes off they all do. Battery operated models can now be wirelessly interconnected.



Writing down the date of the smoke alarm install will help you remember when to check smoke alarms every month, change batteries every year and replace the alarms every 10 years

You should always make sure you're minimizing your risk of home fires, but smoke alarms are your last line of defense, so you need to make sure they're clean. Dust can cause a smoke alarm to malfunction. Run a vacuum fitted with a soft brush over them every time you change the batteries, at least once a year.



## TEST FIRE ALARMS MONTHLY

Smoke alarms should be tested once per month in order to ensure that they are functioning properly. A smoke alarm's job is to alert you when temperatures are rising rapidly and when smoke is detected nearby, however, if they have dead batteries, a speaker malfunction or a wiring issue, they cannot.