

SMOKE ALARMS

HOW DO I INSTALL AND MAINTAIN MY SMOKE ALARM?



Have you checked your smoke alarms?

Did you know that you have to regularly check your smoke alarm using the test button? In addition, a residential smoke alarm that was manufactured more than 10 years ago must be replaced.

If you have a battery operated smoke alarm:

- you must replace it with a battery operated photoelectric smoke alarm.

If you have an electrical smoke alarm:

- you must replace it with an electrical with battery back-up photoelectric smoke alarm.

If your smoke alarm beeps intermittently, this indicates that the battery needs to be replaced. Never use rechargeable batteries.



False alarms

You can move your smoke alarm to an area where it is less likely to be activated unnecessarily:

- on the ceiling at least 10 centimetres from the wall;
- on a wall, 10 to 30 centimetres from the ceiling.

Always ensure that your smoke alarm can be heard from all bedrooms. You can buy a smoke alarm with a “mute button”. Pressing the mute button will silence false alarms for a period of up to 10 minutes. This feature is one way to avoid false alarms caused by cooking and shower vapours.

Types of smoke alarms

There are two types of smoke alarms on the market: ionization (the most common) and photoelectric. Photoelectric smoke alarms are less likely to give out false alarms.

Location

Smoke alarms shall be installed on each floor of a dwelling, including the basement level. In a hallway leading to bedrooms, there shall be a detector within 5 metres of every door.

Smoke alarm models

- Battery operated
- Electrical
- Electrical with battery back-up

Combination detectors

Smoke alarms do not detect carbon monoxide and carbon monoxide detectors do not detect smoke. However, you can buy an alarm that detects both smoke and carbon monoxide. Before buying one, make sure that it meets the requirements set by the Service de sécurité incendie.