

## Maintenance

*Keeping your alarm clean is important. Dirt and dust inside can lead to false alarms. To clean the alarm, remove the cover and wipe it carefully inside and out with a damp cloth. Gently vacuum the interior of the alarm. Refer to the owner's manual for more detailed instructions.*

*The operation of the smoke alarm should be checked monthly by activating the alarm with smoke to ensure that the alarm is functioning. You can use smoke from an extinguished match or candle for testing.*



***Change your smoke alarm battery at least once a year.***

## Choosing a Smoke Alarm

*When purchasing a smoke alarm make sure that it has a "ULC" label. This is your assurance that the alarm has been certified and should function properly.*

*There are two basic types of smoke alarms—photo-electric and ionization. Both are acceptable, however ionization type alarms tend to activate sooner but are more sensitive to false alarms.*

*Many new alarms come with additional features. Alarms with a "pause" feature allow you to avoid removing the battery in non-emergency situations, such as over-cooked food, or a down-draft in your chimney.*

*For maximum protection we recommend installing both battery operated and hard-wired smoke alarms.*



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**T r u r o F i r e  
S e r v i c e**

## Residential Smoke Alarms



**Information about proper  
smoke alarm installation and  
maintenance**

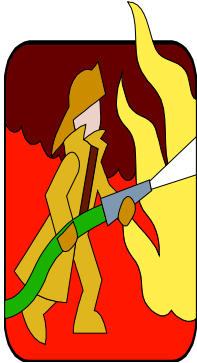
**Smoke alarms save lives!**

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# Smoke Kills

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Nearly 300 people die in household fires in Canada each year. Smoke causes the majority of fire-related deaths. Hot flames are low on the list of killers during a fire. Smoke contains deadly gases such as carbon monoxide and when smoke is produced, life sustaining oxygen is consumed. In many fires extinguished in the early stages, people have been found dead of smoke inhalation without suffering burns.



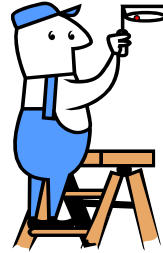
A smouldering fire may go undetected for hours, especially when people are asleep. Such a fire will continue developing, giving off smoke and gases which may not be visible—but which consume oxygen and replace it with toxic gases. Smoke carries poisons such as hydrogen cyanide, formaldehyde, and acetic acid. Synthetic materials and plastics found in most homes produce nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, and ammonia.

These agents can have an effect before someone sleeping is disturbed. An early warning system—a smoke alarm—is considered one of the most effective defences against this situation.

# Installing Smoke Alarms

Every home, apartment suite, mobile home, or any other type of dwelling unit should have a minimum of one smoke alarm.

The major threat from fire is at night when everyone is asleep. Fires usually occur in some part of the dwelling outside of the bedrooms. The smoke alarm is therefore best located between each bedroom area and the rest of the dwelling unit.



The alarm serves to alert the sleeping occupants of the presence of smoke before their escape route becomes blocked.

For dwelling units with sleeping areas located on more than one floor, or separated by common usage rooms such as kitchens or living rooms, a smoke alarm is required in the vicinity of each sleeping area.

A smoke alarm is also recommended at the head of each stairway leading to an occupied area. This location may also serve the purpose of protecting a sleeping area in a two storey house.

The kitchen, bathroom, furnace room, and garage are poor locations for a smoke alarm because of the proximity to products of combustion or steam which may cause false alarms.

# Installation Tips

- Products of combustion rise. An alarm should be mounted on the ceiling in or near the centre of the room, hallway, or stairway.
- Keep alarms away from doors, windows, fans, vents and air registers. Air currents may delay activation.



- Keep alarms at least two feet from any corner of a room. Smoke tends to bypass corners, closets, and dead ends.
- Don't locate an alarm in or near areas where high humidity is present.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper installation methods.

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