

Smoke Alarms Save Lives



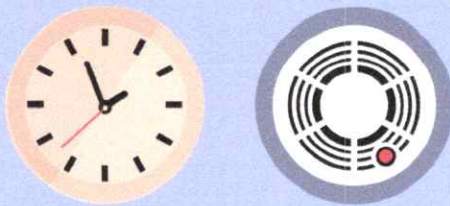
Fires produce heat, smoke, and toxic gases. Smoke alarms give you a chance to leave the building before these hazards block your escape. Most smoke alarms alert you with loud beeps, but special alarms are available for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Working smoke alarms save lives. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

You may have less than three minutes to escape a fire at home

- Never disable a smoke alarm by removing the batteries or unplugging the wiring. Smoke alarms can't help you if they don't work.
- Having working smoke alarms in your home can double your chances of surviving a fire.

Change your clocks. Check your alarms.



If your alarms are 10 years old, replace them now.

- Home fire deaths have been cut in half since the early 1970's when smoke alarms were first marketed.
- Tragically, more than 3,000 people still die in fires each year in the U.S.
- Almost 60% of home fire deaths take place in homes without working smoke alarms.

Maintenance

- Once a month, vacuum or blow out dust from the alarms.
- Push the test button.
- If the alarm uses regular batteries, change them twice a year. An easy way to remember is to change the batteries when you change your clocks. A "chirping" sound indicates that it's time to change the batteries.
- Don't paint smoke alarms!

10-Year lifespan

- When you change your clocks, check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your alarms. Replace smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- When purchasing a new smoke alarm, choose one with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature. Select

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photoelectric alarms from a well-known, national brand.

Plan your escape

- Create a home escape plan before an emergency takes place.
- Plan two ways out of the house and two ways out of each room if possible.
- Choose a place outside the home where family members can meet to be sure everyone is safely out of the building.
- Discuss the plan so each member of the family understands what to do in case of emergency.



All homes need fire protection

All homes in Massachusetts are required to have smoke alarms and most are required to have carbon monoxide alarms. Contact your local fire department and ask about smoke alarm installation programs.

General guidelines for smoke alarm placement:

- On every level of your home
- In hallways outside the bedroom
- At the top of open stairways
- At the base of cellar stairs
- Inside the bedroom for sound sleepers or smokers
- Contact your local fire department for exact locations

When the alarm sounds

- Leave the building.
- Get out and stay out! Never re-enter a burning building.
- Close the doors on the way out (if you can do so safely).
- Go to the family meeting place.
- Call 9-1-1 from outdoors or from a neighbor's home.

Test Smoke Alarms Monthly

