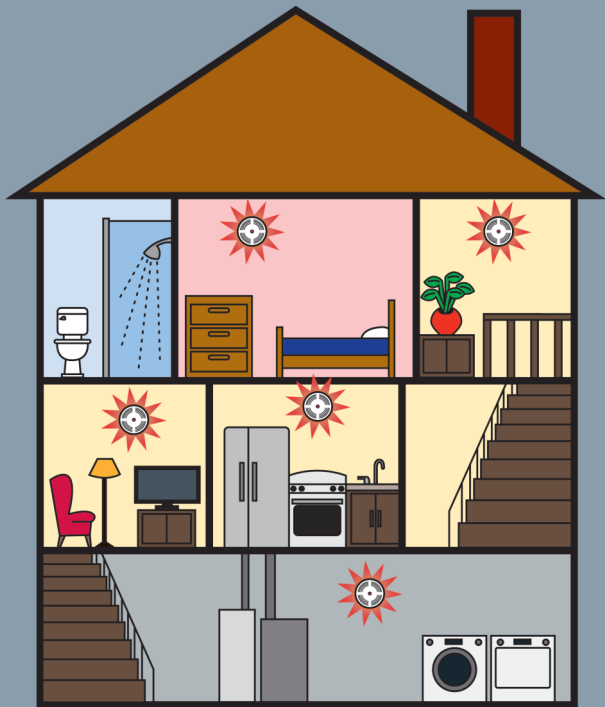


FINDING THE RIGHT SPOT

When installing smoke alarms in your home, it is important to place them in the proper locations for optimal protection.



- ◆ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- ◆ A photoelectric alarm should be installed a minimum of 10 feet from any cooking area or appliance to help reduce nuisance alarms.
- ◆ Interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home provides added protection. When one smoke alarm sounds, all other alarms will sound.
- ◆ When installing any smoke alarm, follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation, testing, and maintenance of the alarm.

DON'T FORGET!

- ◆ Test alarms at least once a month by simply pressing the "test" button.
- ◆ If your alarms require 9-volt batteries, replace the batteries once a year.
- ◆ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- ◆ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- ◆ If the alarm sounds, get outside and then call 9-1-1.
- ◆ Install at least one carbon monoxide (CO) alarm on each level of the home to protect against the "silent killer."



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The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fire safety, burn prevention, and supporting burn survivors.



ILLINOIS FIRE SAFETY ALLIANCE

SMOKE ALARMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), nearly three out of five home fire deaths were the result of fires without a smoke alarm or without a working smoke alarm!

Just one working smoke alarm in the home can help save lives. These life safety devices alert occupants that there is a potential danger and provide a timely warning to escape the home before becoming overcome by smoke and heat.



Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarm or no working smoke alarm!

Smoke alarms save lives. Alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a significant role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke alarms give you time to get out!

SMOKE ALARMS BASICS

There are various models of smoke alarms available for your home.

Ionization Alarms respond to fires with open flames and little smoke present.

Photoelectric Alarms respond to smoldering fires that produce larger quantities of smoke.

Combination Alarms protect you from both fire and carbon monoxide (CO) with smoke (ionization or photoelectric) and CO sensors.



THE RIGHT ALARMS FOR YOU

It is important to have at least one of each (ionization & photoelectric) alarm, or combination alarm, in your home.

In addition to the traditional 9-volt battery operated alarms, 10-year, tamper-proof battery smoke alarms are now being widely sold. This technology allows a long-lasting battery to power the device without having to change the battery annually. You simply test them each month until they reach their 10-year expiration date.

Also, make sure that the smoke alarms you purchase have been approved by a reputable testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

REDUCING NUISANCE ALARMS

When frustrating beeps and chirps come from home smoke alarms, it often results in the removal of the alarm battery or the detachment of the alarm from its mounting bracket - leaving the home vulnerable.

Follow these simple guidelines to reduce the nuisance alarms in the home.

Install a 10-year, tamper-proof battery alarm

- ◆ In addition to saving you money over the life of the device by not having to replace batteries, the alarm will only chirp at the end of the device's life.

If the alarm activates while cooking

- ◆ Do not take the battery out of the alarm or disable the alarm itself - fan away the smoke and fumes.
- ◆ Move the alarm to a location that is further away from the cooking area or appliance.
- ◆ Install a photoelectric smoke alarm near the kitchen area or have an alarm with a "hush" button. The hush button will silence the alarm for a short period of time without having to remove the battery.

Test smoke alarms monthly

- ◆ When testing, if the alarm does not respond, change the battery and retest.
- ◆ If the alarm still does not work, replace with a new device.

