

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

All seasoned fire fighters have heard the explanation, "The smoke detector woke me up. I was able to wake the rest of the family and get them out just ahead of the fire." A smoke detector is the best early fire detection device available to the average homeowner. Here are some answers to questions commonly asked about smoke detectors.

How much does a smoke detector cost?

A smoke detector may be purchased at most retail stores for prices ranging from \$5 to \$20.

What kind of smoke detector should I buy?

Both battery powered and house current powered smoke detectors do a good job. Make sure the one you choose has been tested by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

How many smoke detectors do I need?

There should be at least one detector on every floor of the house except attics, unless the attic space is used for sleeping. Additional detectors will increase the chance of early detection.

Where should I place a detector?

Smoke detectors should be placed near bedrooms either on the ceiling--at least 6 to 12 inches away from wall--or on the wall, 6--12 inches down from the ceiling. This allows the detector to sense the smoke as it approaches the sleeping area.

How do I install a smoke detector?

Battery operated detectors can be attached directly to the ceiling or wall. Wired-in electric detectors are somewhat more difficult to install and may require an electrician.

What maintenance do smoke detectors require?

Test the detector at least monthly by pushing the test button. Once a year vacuum the dust from alarm air vents. Battery operated detectors should have the battery replaced each year or when the low battery warning sounds. Select a memorable date such as a holiday or a family birthday to remind you to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors at that time.

Is there anything else I should do with my smoke detector?

YES! Hold practice drills with the whole family so they will know what to do if your detector ever alerts you of an emergency.

Any other tips?

- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home.
- Never remove a good battery or otherwise disable the detectors.
- Know what to do after a detector sounds off.
- Plan a home escape route in the event of a fire.