

---

# Working smoke alarms save lives



**FIRE  
KILLS**

**YOU CAN  
PREVENT IT**

---

**BUYING AND LOOKING AFTER  
YOUR ALARM – THE BASICS**

**A fire in the home can spread very quickly, damaging property, personal possessions and lives for ever. Working smoke alarms give the early warning that you and your family need to take action and escape.**

**Don't risk everything. PUSH THE **BUTTON** NOT YOUR LUCK**

---

**There are two simple things you can do to protect yourself and your home from fire:**

- Fit smoke alarms on each floor level in your home.
- Test your smoke alarms once a week to make sure the batteries are working.



***Make weekly testing part of your household routine.***

**These are the types of alarms you can choose from:**

- Standard battery alarms which cost as little as £5
- 10 year alarms which cost a few pounds more
- Alarms wired into the mains with battery back up – these are required in any newly built home
- mains powered alarm which plugs into a light bulb socket

If you are buying a new smoke alarm consider a 10 year alarm which will require less frequent battery changes. But don't forget that all types of alarms need to be tested **once** a week.



***Remember – beeping alarms can be a reminder to change the battery.***

## Where to fit your smoke alarm

Smoke Alarms always need to be fitted on the ceiling. Good places to fit alarms are where you can hear them throughout your home. For example:

- Top of the staircase
- Stair landings
- Between living and sleeping areas

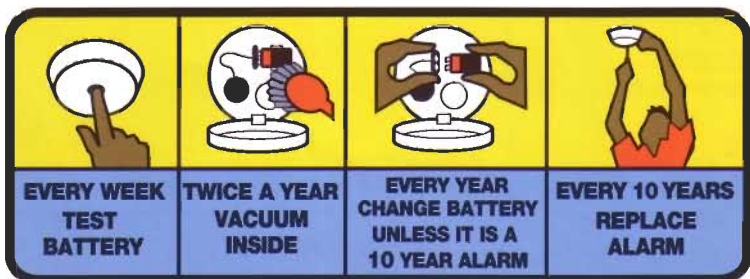
Avoid fitting alarms too near cooking areas or bathrooms, where smoke or steam can set them off accidentally.



## Looking after your alarm

Press the test button and hold it until the alarm sounds. If it doesn't sound you need to replace the battery. If you can't reach the test button – a simple tip is to use a broom handle. Some systems are provided with a conveniently located test button or you can have one installed at a convenient height by a qualified electrician.

If your alarm goes off by mistake, don't take the battery out, use the hush button if one is fitted. If the alarm goes off frequently it may be installed in the wrong place you can contact your local Fire and Rescue Service for advice.



## Has your hearing deteriorated since fitting your smoke alarm or are you a deep sleeper?

Smoke alarms with vibrating pads and flashing lights might be more suitable. The pad is placed under a mattress or pillow. When smoke is detected the alarm will sound and set off the light and pad – waking you up instantly.

Specialist advice is available from the Royal National Institute for Deaf people (RNID) Information line on **0808 808 0123**.

Whichever model you choose, look out for one of these symbols which indicate that the detector is an approved model.



British Standard Kitemark



Further advice on fire safety, including Braille leaflets and audio tapes, is available from your local Fire and Rescue Service. The number is in your local phone book or visit our website at: [www.firekills.gov.uk](http://www.firekills.gov.uk)

IF THERE'S A FIRE... **Get Out  
Stay Out  
and call  
999**



Published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.  
©Crown copyright 2004. Reprinted in the UK, September 2004.  
Product code: FS006ALLOGO

Partners in fire prevention

