

Have you checked your smoke alarms lately?

Smoke Alarm Guide



Have you checked your smoke alarms lately?

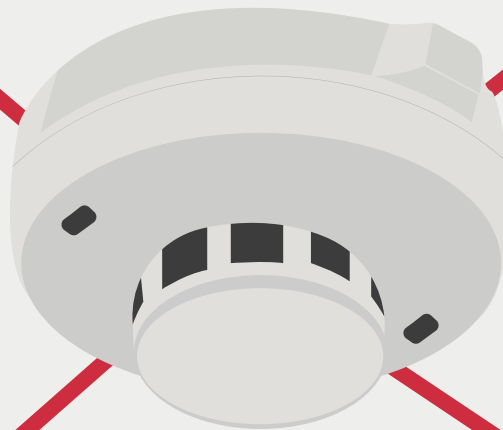


Why do I need a working smoke alarm?

Remember: You need a working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm. Smoke alarms will protect you during a fire, and CO alarms will protect you during a carbon monoxide leak. If the alarm doesn't work, it can't protect you!

Smoke alarms can give you time to escape.

- On average, people have 2-3 minutes to escape a burning home because of the materials used in construction and the items in the home.
- The faster you know the fire is there, the faster you can get out.



Smoke & CO alarms are important.

- Smoke/CO alarms are an important part of the law.
- Smoke alarms are required in every home in Oregon.
- CO alarms are required in every home built or renovated after 2011.

Smoke & CO alarms are widely available.

- Smoke/CO alarms are a cost effective, widely available way to protect your family from being injured or killed in a fire.

Smoke alarms can wake you up.

- When a fire starts while you are asleep, the smoke and fumes can kill you before you realize there is a fire, but smoke alarms can wake you up, giving you more time to escape.

Have you checked your smoke alarms lately?



Do I need a new smoke alarm?

- Test smoke alarms every month. If the smoke alarm needs a new battery, replace it with the same type of battery you removed.
- If it is older than 10 years, replace it. Check the alarm to find the date of manufacture.
- Smoke alarms installed in your home should sound when you push the test button. If it doesn't, it no longer functions, and you should replace it.



Do I need a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm?

- Install a CO alarm if you have a home with a carbon monoxide source, such as an attached garage, a cooking source that burns fuel (wood, coal, petroleum, etc.), or a heat source that burns fuel (fireplace, furnace, or heater).
- Install a CO alarm in any home built after April 1, 2011, even if there is no specific CO source.



Have you checked your smoke alarms lately?



What should I buy to replace an old smoke or carbon monoxide alarm?

- You can buy smoke & CO alarms at most hardware and big-box stores or online.
- Look for a third-party seal of approval.



Types of smoke alarms

Different alarms detect smoke in different ways. Research what works best for your home.

Photoelectric

- Smoke particles interrupt a beam of light to sound the alarm.
- These work best for smoldering or slow-moving fires.



Ionization

- Smoke particles interrupt a flow of ions from americium-241.
- These work best for flames or fast-moving fires.

Dual Sensor

- Uses both technologies to detect smoke in the air.

Have you checked your smoke alarms lately?



Must do's for everyone:

- Ensure that you have correctly installed and working smoke alarms.
- Know what to do when the alarm sounds. Get out, stay out, and call 911.
- Maintain your smoke & CO alarms using the manufacturer's information.

Must do's for landlords:

- Install working smoke alarms, which include batteries, with written instructions at the tenant's first possession. The number of smoke alarms depends on the codes at the time of construction.
- Replace a malfunctioning alarm (except if it is due to a dead battery).
- Provide appropriate equipment for tenants who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing tenants.



Must do's for tenants:

- Test the smoke & CO alarms monthly.
- Replace batteries as needed.
- Notify the landlord of any operating deficiencies, so the landlord can replace the alarm.
- Never tamper with or remove the alarm.