



SMOKE ALARM GUIDANCE

Fitting alarms save lives, but only if they are working. Test yours every month. It's as simple as pushing the button.

Choosing and fitting alarms

Smoke and heat alarms are easy to install. They are available from most DIY and high street supermarkets,

- Fit at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Keep smoke alarms away from kitchens or bathrooms as steam can set them off by mistake
- You can fit a heat alarm in the kitchen; instead of detecting smoke these alarms are sensitive to changes in temperature and so won't give false alarms from cooking fumes
- Choose smoke alarms with a 10-year or long lasting sealed battery
- Make sure any alarms you buy are marked with a British Standards or European (CE) safety mark
- Always follow the manufacturer's fitting instructions as poorly sited alarms may cause lots of false alarms

If it is difficult for you to fit smoke alarms yourself, ask a friend or family member to help you.

Other useful points to note

- Standard battery operated alarms are the cheapest option but the batteries need to be replaced every year
- If your alarms need batteries always buy good quality ones, longer life batteries are always the best option. If any of your smoke alarms have a one year battery, make sure it is changed every year
- Test all of your smoke alarms when you install them and then at least once a month by pressing the button until the alarm sounds
- Only take the battery out when you need to replace it; never disconnect or take the batteries out of your alarm if it goes off by mistake
- Testing smoke alarms tests the smoke sensor as well as the power supply and/or battery
- If the alarm does not sound when tested, the battery needs to be replaced
- If the alarm starts to beep on a regular basis with no signs of fire, you need to replace the battery immediately