

# SMOKE ALARM SAVES LIVES

# SMOKE ALARMS

If you would like help testing your smoke alarms or preparing a home fire escape plan, Markham Fire and Emergency Services can assist you.

Contact us at **905-415-7521**, or visit our website at **www.markham.ca**.

## SMOKE ALARM SAVES LIVES - DON'T BE CAUGHT WITHOUT ONE

In case of an emergency call  
Markham Fire & Emergency  
Services at 9-1-1

For more information,  
Contact us at 905-415-7521,  
or visit our website at  
[www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)



What you need to know

## Protect your family and home

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are sleeping. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound to alert you.

## Equip your home with a smoke\* alarm

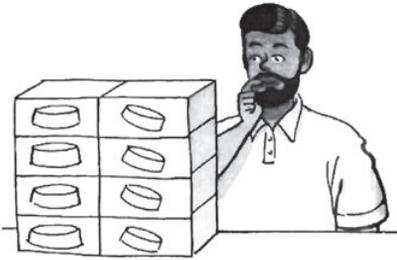
The Ontario Fire Code requires that smoke alarms be installed on every storey of the home and outside sleeping areas.

## Choose the best alarm

There are two different types of smoke alarms to choose from.

### Ionization Smoke Alarm

uses a small amount of radioactive material to ionize the air between two electrically charged plates, causing a measurable current to flow between plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it changes the flow of current, which is detected and activates the alarm.



**Photoelectric Smoke Alarm** uses a light source that is aimed away from a sensor in a sensing chamber. When smoke enters the chamber it reflects the light onto the sensor, which is detected and activates the alarm.

Smoke alarms can be electrically connected, battery operated or both.

## Install more than one smoke alarm

Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside each sleeping area.



Remember to replace alarms that are more than 10 years old. Smoke alarms do not last forever.

## Where to Install smoke alarms

Because smoke rises, it is recommended you place the alarms on the ceiling. Avoid ceilings near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows and ceiling fans.

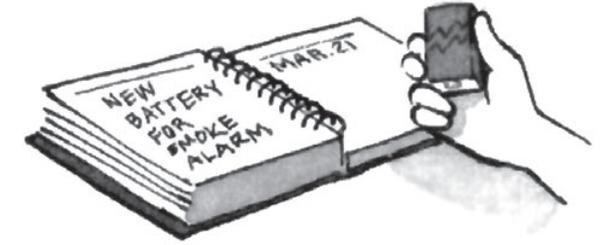


## Test your alarm

Test your smoke alarms regularly by pressing the test button or by using smoke from a smouldering incense stick.



## Replace batteries regularly



Install a new battery in each alarm once a year. All battery-operated smoke alarms are required to emit a warning sound, usually an intermittent “chirp” when the battery power is low. When warning chirp sounds, replace your battery immediately. Never wait. Change your batteries when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.

## Maintain Alarms

Dust can clog a smoke alarm, so gently vacuum alarms every six months using a soft brush. Never vacuum electrically connected alarms unless you shut off the power. Test your unit when finished cleaning.



When installing, testing, and maintaining smoke alarms, make sure you follow the manufacturer’s instructions.