

Home Fire Safety

FACT SHEET



Tasmania Fire Service

Smoke alarms

! REMEMBER: only working smoke alarms save lives!

You are more likely to die in a house fire without a working smoke alarm, especially when sleeping. Due to a reduced sense of smell while sleeping, people are unlikely to be woken by the smell of smoke.

Working smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire, giving you time to escape safely.



The law says:

Smoke alarms are **required by law** for all residential properties and must meet the standards set in the Building Code at the time of construction or when conducting major renovations or extensions to existing properties.

Minimum requirements:

- Install a smoke alarm in every hallway or corridor connected to bedrooms.
- If there is no hallway or corridor, install a smoke alarm between the bedrooms and the rest of the home.
- Multi-storey homes must have a smoke alarm on each level, even levels without bedrooms.

Additional requirements:

- **Since 1 August 1997:** Smoke alarms must be hard-wired to mains power.
- **Since 1 May 2014:** Smoke alarms must be hard-wired and interconnected (if more than one).

The Tasmania Fire Service recommends:



In addition to minimum legal requirements, install smoke alarms in:

- every bedroom or where someone sleeps
- living areas
- garages.



Ideally, use **mains-powered interconnected smoke alarms** so that if any alarm activates, they will all sound. Alternatively, install photoelectric smoke alarms with a 10-year long-life lithium battery.



Test, clean, and check alarms regularly. Smoke alarms with replaceable batteries should have their batteries replaced yearly (e.g. at the end of daylight savings).



Use **carbon monoxide alarms** for rooms that have gas appliances or wood heaters.



Install smoke alarms in all caravans, boats and other mobile property where people might sleep.

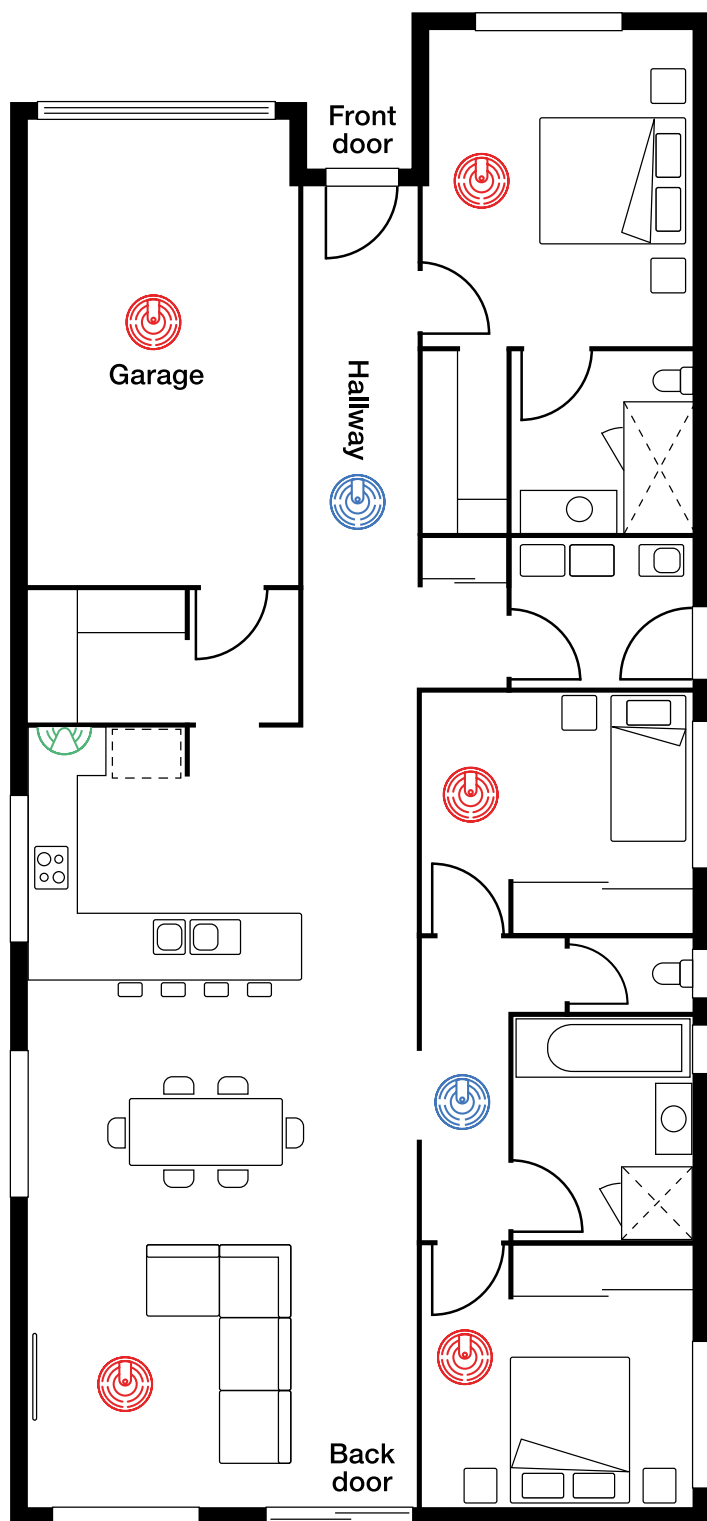


Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Purchase alarms that meet Australian Standards.

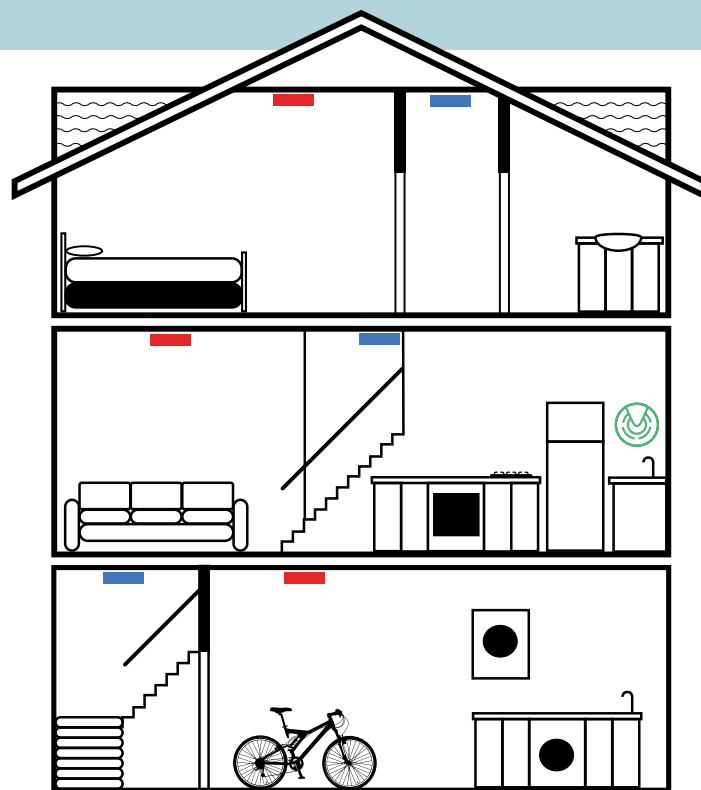







Smoke alarm placement guide:



Single storey home



Multi-storey home

-  Smoke alarms required by law (minimum legal requirements)
-  Additional smoke alarms recommended by Tasmania Fire Service
-  Carbon monoxide alarms recommended by Tasmania Fire Service



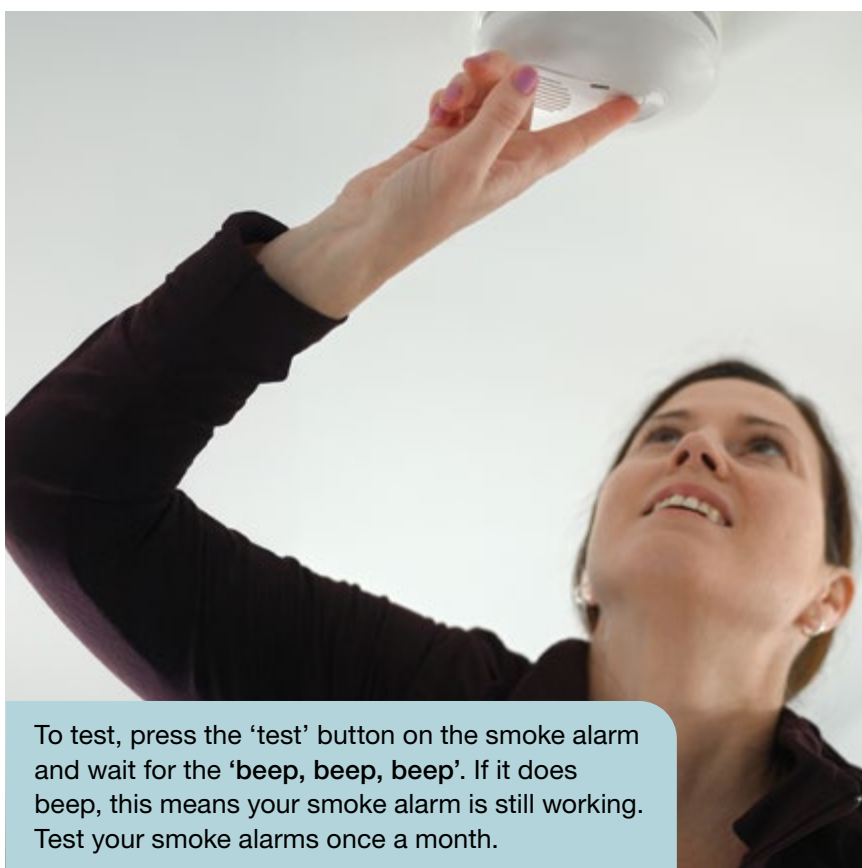
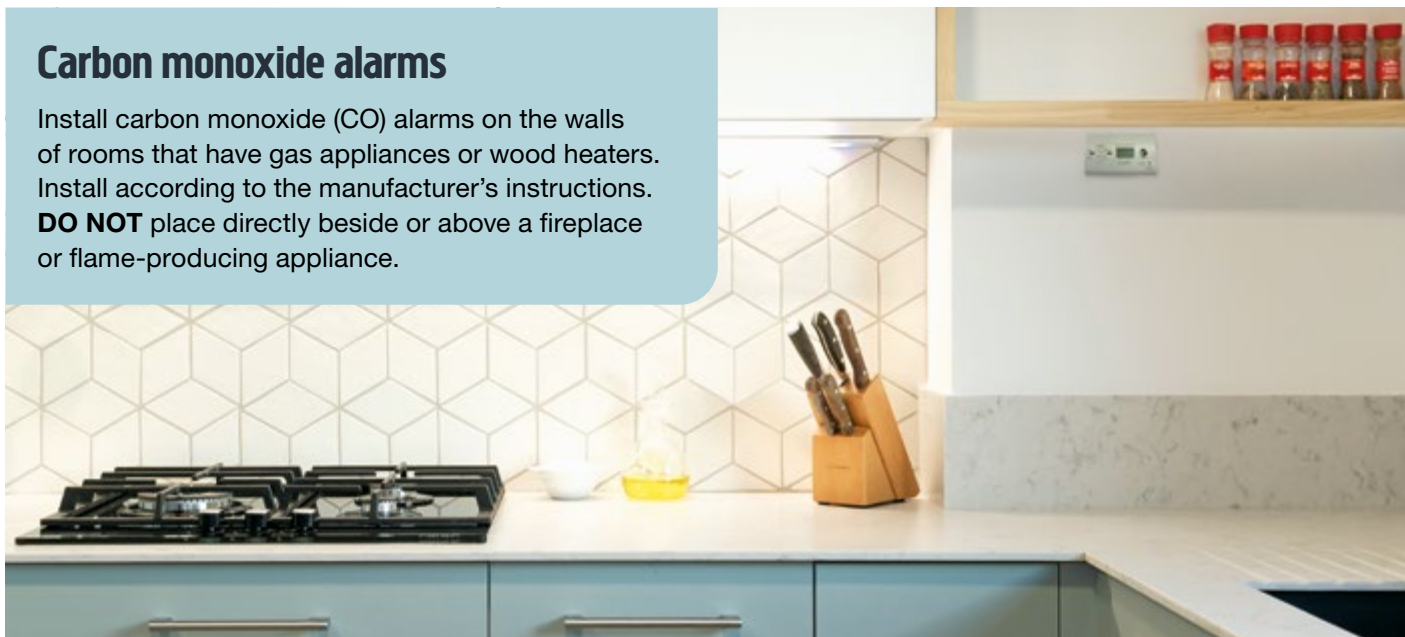
Install on a ceiling on each level of the house at least 30cm away from the wall or any other objects.



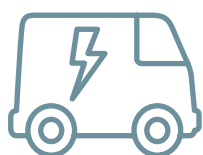
Smoke alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms

Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on the walls of rooms that have gas appliances or wood heaters. Install according to the manufacturer's instructions. **DO NOT** place directly beside or above a fireplace or flame-producing appliance.









To test, press the 'test' button on the smoke alarm and wait for the 'beep, beep, beep'. If it does beep, this means your smoke alarm is still working. Test your smoke alarms once a month.



Some smoke alarms may need to be installed by a qualified electrician. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Hot tips

-  If you can't reach your smoke alarm to test it, you can use an item like a broom handle to push the button. Always be careful if using a ladder or step ladder.
-  **Smoke alarms can collect dust!** Make sure you vacuum smoke alarms using a soft brush.
-  If your smoke alarm makes a single, occasional beep, it may require cleaning, the battery may need changing, or the smoke alarm may be faulty and must be replaced.
-  For older people or people with a disability, smoke alarms should be connected to a personal alarm system.
-  Young children are likely to sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm, so you must alert them to a fire and help them escape to safety.
-  Interconnect smoke alarms so when one goes off they all go off alerting you and your family as quickly as possible if there is a fire.