

Smoke Alarm

Pointers

*...to save
your life!*



Only working smoke alarms save lives!

- **Choose the right smoke alarms.** There are many types of smoke alarms available with different power sources, technologies and features. Before purchasing smoke alarms, visit ontario.ca/firemarshal for information, or contact the fire department.
- **Install in the proper locations.** Ontario law requires that working smoke alarms be located on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Avoid installing smoke alarms in or adjacent to kitchens and bathrooms, or near air vents, windows and ceiling fans.
- **Manage nuisance alarms.** If a smoke alarm frequently activates due to cooking activities or using the shower, do not remove the battery! Try moving the smoke alarm, purchasing a smoke alarm with a hush feature, or replacing ionization alarms located near kitchens with photoelectric alarms. For more solutions to nuisance alarms, visit ontario.ca/firemarshal.
- **Change the batteries once a year.** Install a new battery at least once a year or whenever the low-battery warning sounds. Test the smoke alarm after installing a new battery.
- **Test smoke alarms monthly.** Smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and upon returning home after an absence of more than a few days. If the alarm fails



- to sound when the test button is pressed, make sure the battery is installed correctly, or install a new battery. If the alarm still fails to sound, replace the smoke alarm with a new one.
- **Smoke alarms don't last forever.** They are required to be replaced within the time frame indicated by the manufacturer. This is usually 10 years. **Always follow the manufacturer's instructions** for installing, testing and maintaining smoke alarms. **For information about smoke alarms**, contact your local fire department.



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