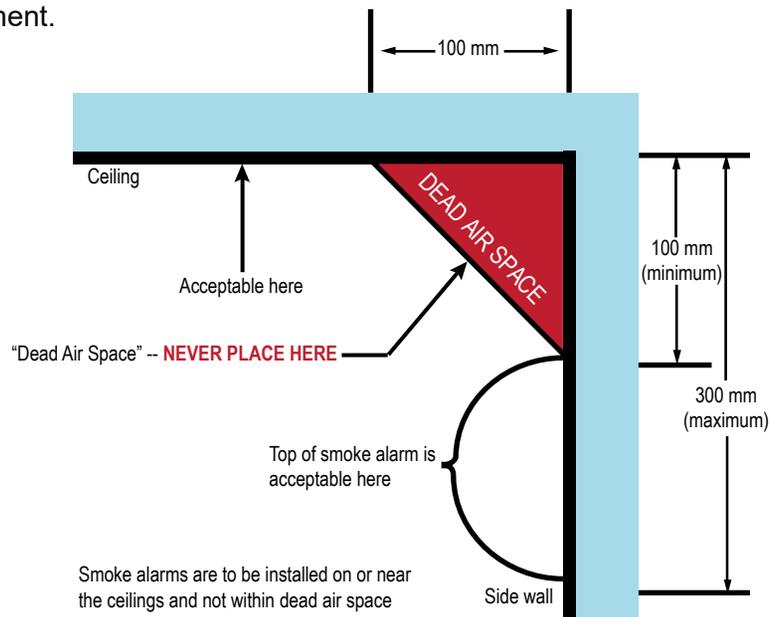


# Where to install your smoke alarms.

Because smoke rises, smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling. Avoid ceilings near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows and ceiling fans. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.



*Your local fire department is:*



The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) provides educational fire safety resources to help keep you and your loved ones safe at home. With the help of our members – municipal chief fire officers in Ontario, we strive to lead innovation and excellence in public life safety in every community that we serve. If you want to learn more about how to prevent fires or related hazards where you live, please contact your local fire department or visit our website at [www.oafc.on.ca](http://www.oafc.on.ca).

If you want to learn more about Will Fightfire and Friends, visit our website at [www.oafc.on.ca/oafc-will-fightfire-and-friends-information](http://www.oafc.on.ca/oafc-will-fightfire-and-friends-information).



# WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES





A dead smoke alarm is worse than none at all. It gives you a false sense of security. Don't disable your alarms – it's against the law.

## Smoke alarms are the first line of defence in fire escape planning.

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

### WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

To help keep you and your family safe, *Will Fightfire*, a trusted fire safety inspector, has compiled these fire prevention tips. *Will Fightfire* is the new face of fire safety public education in Ontario.

## Choose the best alarm.

**Installing working smoke alarms can save your life, but it's also the law! All Ontario homes must have a working smoke alarm on every story and outside all sleeping areas. This covers single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.**

There are two different types of smoke alarms to choose from. It is best to use both types of alarms in your home.

**1. Ionization smoke alarms** are quicker to warn about flaming fires. These alarms use 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.

**2. Photoelectric alarms** are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. These alarms use 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.



## Maintain your alarm.

**Test your smoke alarms regularly by pressing the “test” button. Follow the tips below to ensure your family is always protected.**

### Replace batteries regularly.

Change your batteries when you change your clocks in the spring and fall. When the warning chirp sounds, indicating your battery is low, replace it immediately. Never wait.

**If you think your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old, replace it.** Smoke alarms wear out. A hassle and worry free way to update smoke alarms is to install 10-year-battery smoke alarms. These easy, enduring alarms offer decade-long protection.

### Clean your smoke alarms.

Dust can clog a smoke alarm. 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.

### Plan your escape.

Make sure that everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm and what to do when it activates. Create an escape plan and practice it with the entire household. Once outside, call the fire department from a neighbour's home. Never re-enter a burning building.

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

