



Seattle Fire Department—Fire Prevention Division

Working smoke alarms save lives — have smoke alarms that work!

Smoke Alarms

Every home should have working smoke alarms. If the alarm sounds you may have less than a minute, get outside quickly and call 9-1-1.



Install smoke alarms:

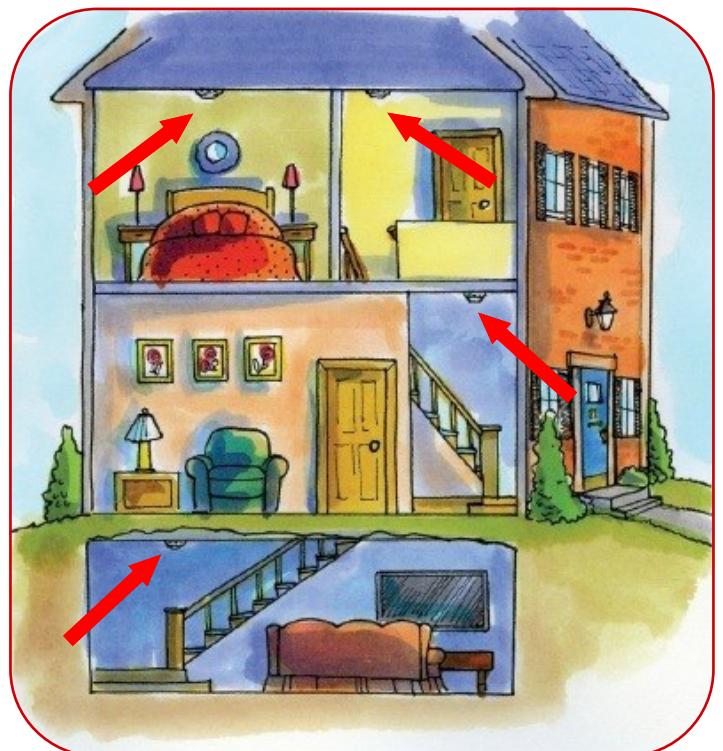
- In every bedroom
- Outside each sleeping area
- On every level of the home, including the basement

Smoke alarms should be on the ceiling or high on a wall (within 12 inches of the ceiling)—at least 10 feet from the stove.

If the alarm sounds while cooking or showering:

- Open a window or door and press the *hush* button
- Wave a towel around the alarm to clear the air

Never disable the alarm or remove the battery!



Every month.

Test the alarm each month.

Every year.

Replace the battery at least once a year.

Every 10 years.

Replace the entire alarm.



There are many brands of smoke alarms, but two basic types: **ionization** are quicker to warn about flaming fires and **photoelectric** are quicker to warn about smoldering fires.

It is best to use both types of alarms or a **dual sensor smoke alarm**, which contains both ionization and photoelectric sensors.

There are special alarms for **hard-of-hearing or deaf individuals**. These alarms may have strobe lights and/or bed shakers.

Washington State Law requires new homes and rentals have smoke alarms.

Landlords are required to provide working smoke alarms. **Tenants** are required to maintain the alarms.

The **Seattle Fire Department** can provide and install smoke alarms for owner-occupied homes in the city, when the home-owner is a senior citizen, has a disability or is living on a low income. **Call 206-386-1337 or email fireinfo@seattle.gov for more information.**



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