

www.dontgivefireahome.com

Save lives with Smoke Alarms

Why should you buy one?

Not having one could cost you your life.

500 lives are lost and thousands of people are injured in UK house fires each year.

If a fire occurs in your home it can rapidly engulf your house with smoke and flames

A smoke alarm gives you those precious life saving minutes to put your fire plan into action and get you and your family to safety.

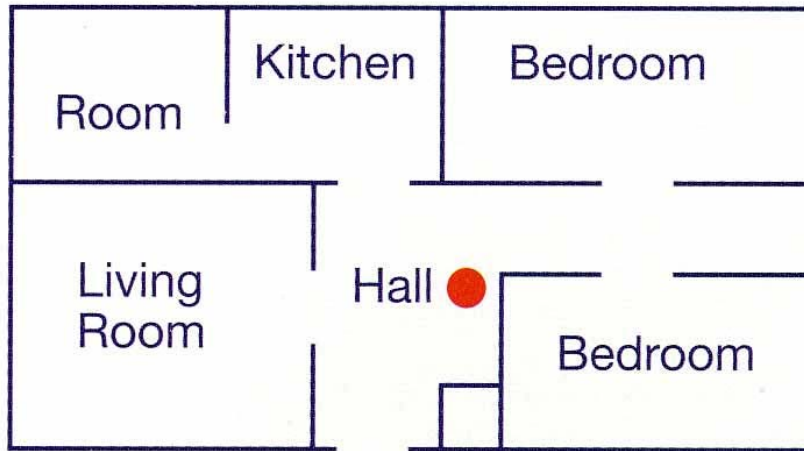
Remember a smoke alarm buys you valuable time.



Where should it be sited?

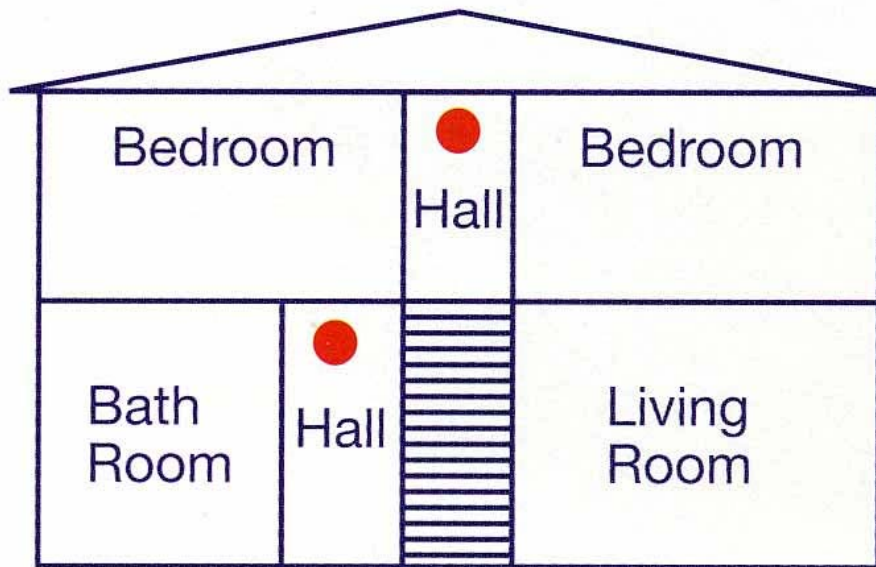
If your home is on one level you should fit the alarm in the hallway between the living and sleeping areas.

Single level house



● Fire Alarm

If your home has more than one floor, one alarm should be fitted at the bottom of each staircase and an alarm on each upstairs landing.



● Fire Alarm

If you have more than one alarm fitted where possible they should be inter connected.

For extra safety fit a smoke alarm in each room, except for the kitchen and bathroom.

Types of smoke alarm

All alarms must comply with British Standards BS 5446

There are two common types of smoke alarm

Ionisation: this type of alarm is most common as it is the least expensive, but can have problems of irritating false alarms caused by cooking or portable gas heaters.

Optical: This type is more expensive, but because of the way it operates it is less likely to cause false alarms.

Power supplies for smoke alarms.

The power supplies for alarms range from battery to electric mains operated, with or without a back up system.

Fitting a smoke alarm is simple.

They should be fitted on the ceiling within 7 metres of the door to the living room or kitchen (but not too near the kitchen door to avoid accidental operation) and within 3 metres of the door to a bedroom. Keep the alarm at least 300mm away from any wall, light or heating/air conditioning outlet.

Always check that the alarm can be heard from all areas of your house. If not, reposition your alarm or fit additional alarms.

The manufacturer's fitting instructions contain essential information that you should read to ensure your safety.

Checking your smoke alarm

Once a week, press the test button to check that the alarm sounds.

If the alarm does not work try fitting a new battery.

If the alarm still does not work check the battery is fitted correctly and if still not working, replaces the smoke alarm with a new one.

Change the battery once a year or sooner if required. Remember, new battery, new birthday, New Year.

Clean the alarm. The outer and inner casings of battery operated alarms should be lightly vacuumed at least once a year, preferably when you change the battery. The outer casing of mains operated alarms should be lightly vacuumed at least once a year.

Remember about 1 in 4 smoke alarms fails to operate because it does not have a battery, or the battery is flat.

Is your life worth spending £2 on?

That's about the price of a battery and it can save your life.

If your alarm sounds put your fire plan into action.

Remember a smoke alarm unit does not last forever and will need to be replaced every ten years - or sooner if it fails your tests.

If you require further information contact your local Fire Service.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives