**If the Smoke Alarm Sounds:**

* Responding to an alarm, you will hear a loud, repeating horn pattern. 3 beeps, pause, 3 beeps, pause.
* If it alarms and you are not testing the unit, it is warning you of potentially dangerous situations that may require immediate attention.
* If you see and smell smoke, get out of the house and call 911.

 **If you suspect a problem**

**Smoke alarms need regular maintenance**. They might not work because of dead or missing batteries, a buildup of dirt, dust or grease on the smoke alarm cover or installed in an improper location. Clean the alarm and replace the battery and test it again. If it still fails replace the smoke alarm immediately.

* If you hear a “chirp” once a minute, replace the battery.
* If you experience frequent non-emergency alarms (like those caused by cooking smoke), try relocating the smoke alarm.
* If the alarm sounds when no smoke is visible, try cleaning or relocating the smoke alarm, it may be dirty.
* If the alarm does not sound during testing, try installing a new battery, and make sure it snapped in securely.

**Recommended locations**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends one smoke alarm on every floor, in every sleeping area, and in every bedroom. In new construction, the smoke alarms must be AC powered and interconnected.

 Check your local building department for local codes and ordinances regarding how many smoke alarms are required for your home at the time it was built.

 Click on the link to see the recommended places to install smoke alarms. [Info\_SA (nfpa.org)](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Smoke-alarm-infographic.ashx)

More specifically, install smoke alarms,

* On every level of the home, including finished attics and basements.
* Inside every bedroom, especially if people sleep with their door closed or partially closed.
* In the hallway near every sleeping area, if your home has multiple sleeping areas, install a unit in each.
* At the top of the first- to-second story stairway, at the bottom of the basement stairway.

For additional coverage, it is recommended that you install smoke alarms in all rooms, halls, storage areas, finished attics, and basements, where temperatures normally remain between 40 degrees and 100 degrees.

 **Locations to avoid for smoke alarms.**

* Areas to avoid include poorly ventilated kitchens, garages, and furnace rooms. Keep away from sources of combustion particles, (stoves, furnaces, water heater, space heater.)
* In air streams near kitchens. Air currents can draw cooking smoke into the sensing chamber of a smoke alarm near the kitchen.
* In very damp, humid or steamy areas, or directly near bathrooms with showers. Keep units at least 10 feet away from the showers, saunas, or dishwashers.
* Where the temperatures are regularly below 40 degrees F or above 100 degrees F including outdoor rooms, patios, unfinished buildings.
* In very dirty, dusty, or greasy locations. If one is in the laundry room, keep it free from dust and lint by regularly vacuuming the unit.
* Near fresh air vents, ceiling fans or drafty areas. Drafts can blow smoke away from the unit and prevent it from reaching the sensing chamber.
* Insect infested areas. Insects can clog the openings of the sensing chamber and cause alarms.
* Less than 12 inches from florescent lights, electrical noise can interfere with the sensor.
* In dead air spaces, “dead air” may prevent the smoke from reaching the smoke alarm.

 **Smoke alarm limitations**

* **Smoke alarms cannot work without power**. Battery powered smoke alarms cannot work if the battery is missing, disconnected or dead. For AC powered smoke alarms, if the power goes out for a long period of time, have a backup battery and test the alarm to ensure it is working.
* **Smoke alarms can not detect fires if the smoke does not reach the alarm**. Smoke from fires from chimneys or inside walls, on roofs or on the other side of a closed door may not reach the sensing chamber and set the alarm off. Additional units should be installed in rooms with closed doors.
* **Smoke alarms are not foolproof!** Like any other electronic device, smoke alarms are made of components that wear out or fail over time. You must test the smoke alarms regularly to ensure they continue protection. Smoke alarms cannot prevent or extinguish a fire.
* **Smoke alarms have a limited life. The smoke alarm should be replaced immediately if it is not working properly. You should always replace a smoke alarm after 10 years from the date of purchase. Write the product date on the space provided on the unit.**