

## How Do I Test My Smoke Detector?

Your smoke detector's manual should give you detailed instructions on how to test your smoke detector. Usually, this is done by pressing a button in the center of the smoke detector. If you press this button down for a few seconds and it beeps, then the battery should still be working. If the smoke detector does not beep, then replace the batteries and test again.

## Are There Smoke Detectors for the Hearing Impaired?

People who are hearing-impaired also need the protection that smoke detectors provide. Smoke detectors for the hearing impaired have a strong strobe light attached to the circuitry. When the smoke detector senses the smoke, the strobe light begins blinking.

If you are installing one of these smoke detectors, follow the instructions on where to locate this detector. You might want to install the smoke detector inside the appropriate bedroom, rather than in the hallway so that the light will be stronger when the hearing-impaired person is asleep. Also, you might need more than one hearing-impaired smoke detector in the house.

## Why Won't My Smoke Detector Let Me Cook? *(and Other Problems with False Alarms)*

If you frequently have false alarms while you are cooking, your smoke detector isn't hinting to you that your cooking is bad. The most common cause for frequent false alarms is a bad placement of the smoke detector. Ionization smoke detectors are designed to alarm whenever a small amount of "unclear" air passes through its sensors; it cannot tell the difference between thick acrid smoke, dusty air from the workroom, or steam from the bathroom.

Moving your smoke detectors to a better location – away from the kitchen, or bathroom, or a dusty area – and a good cleaning of the smoke detector will usually solve the problem.

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# Home Fire Safety Checklist



Frequently Asked Questions  
about Smoke Detectors

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# Home Fire Safety Checklist

## One & Two Family Dwellings

### Plan to Get Out Alive

- |   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you have a home fire escape plan with a pre-determined location to meet outside? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is there at least one smoke alarm on each floor in your home? .....                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you test your smoke alarms monthly? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the battery replaced yearly? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your smoke alarm less than 10 years old? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Plan to Be Fire Safe

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is "no smoking in bed" a rule in your home? .....                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you read the warning labels on aerosol cans? .....                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### Some propellants are highly flammable

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| If you have a family member using oxygen at home, do you prohibit smoking in the same room with oxygen equipment? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|

### Electrical Hazards

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have special circuits for heavy-duty appliances such as air conditioners? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are all extension and appliance cords checked frequently for wear? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you avoid draping wires and extension cords over pipes or nails? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Housekeeping Hazards

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you keep your basement, closets, and attic clear of combustible materials? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If you store paint, varnish, etc. do you keep the metal containers tightly closed? .....                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable fluids for cleaning anything indoors? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Heating and Cooking Hazards

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you always turn off portable heaters when you go to bed? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you always refill the fuel tank on your portable heaters outdoors? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you see that every portable heater is placed well away from curtains, bedding, furniture, etc? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your kitchen range, including the oven and broiler, kept clean of grease? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are curtains near kitchen ranges and heating equipment arranged so that curtains do not blow over or near the stove? .....                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do your family's everyday cooking habits include not leaving food on the stove unattended and keeping pot handles turned in from the stove's edge? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Special for Parents

- |   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you keep matches out of the reach of children? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out (even for a short period of time)? .....               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| When you employ a babysitter, do you instruct her what to do in case of fire or medical emergency? ...                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you keep candles away from children and combustibles and never leave candles unattended or burning while sleeping? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**For fire or medical emergency dial 9-1-1**

