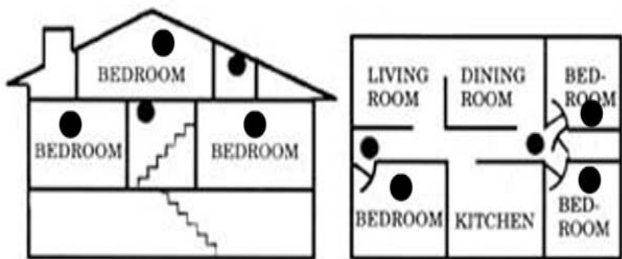
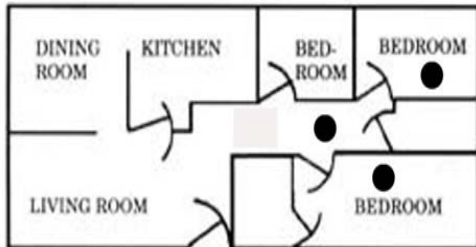


HOW MANY SMOKE ALARMS SHOULD I HAVE?

This depends on the size and layout of your home, and where people sleep in your home. The primary job of a smoke detector is to awaken sleeping persons and warn them of urgent danger .

WHERE SHOULD I PLACE THESE SMOKE ALARMS?

Generally smoke alarms should be in each bedroom, in the hallway outside of the sleeping area and on every level of the home. In multi-level homes a smoke alarm should be located at the top of the stairwell.



WHERE SHOULD I NOT PLACE SMOKE ALARMS?

Smoke alarms should not be located:

- Within six inches of where walls and ceilings meet
- Near heating and cooling ducts
- Directly outside of a kitchen or bathroom



*For more information on
fire safety in the home,
please contact:
Fire Prevention Division.*



SMOKE ALARMS

Fire Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Division
St. John's Regional Fire Department
Central Fire Station, Administration
709.576.8571 ph
709.576.8635 fax
www.sjrfd.ca



SJRFD

SMOKE ALARMS IN THE HOME

The largest percentage of fire deaths in the home occurs at night while people are asleep. Therefore, a working smoke alarm can provide an early warning that can make the difference between life and death. According to studies published by the National Fire Protection Association, having a smoke alarm cuts your risk of dying in a fire by nearly half. However, a smoke alarm should be part of an overall home fire safety strategy that also includes preventing fires by adopting fire safe behaviour, and developing and practicing a home fire escape plan. In a fire, escape time may be very limited. Therefore, escape plans are a critical aspect of a home fire safety strategy.



HOW OFTEN SHOULD I TEST MY SMOKE ALARM?

- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly.



WHAT FEATURES DO I CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SMOKE ALARM?

- Be sure the smoke alarm you buy has been approved by a certified agency.
- Some alarms operate on electricity and include battery backup and others operate on batteries.
- Some alarms have "hush" buttons so you can silence them if cooking fumes or steam set them off. They re-activate again after 8 to 10 minutes.
- For people who are hard of hearing, some alarms flash a strobe light.

HOW DO I INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS?

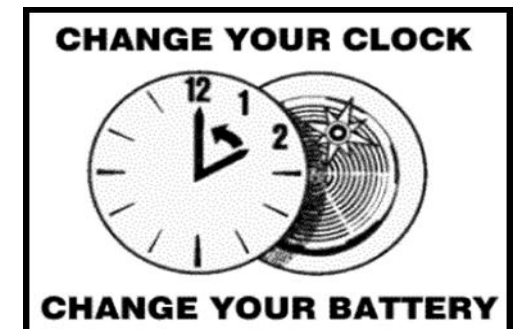
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- With most battery-powered alarms use only a drill and a screwdriver.
- Have a qualified electrician install alarms that are hard-wired into your house wiring.
- Never connect an alarm to a circuit that can be turned off from a wall switch.
- Wire alarms together so that if one sounds, they all sound.

HOW DO I MAINTAIN MY SMOKE ALARMS?

- Always save and follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace any smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Clean your alarms regularly, following manufacturer's instructions. You can sometimes use a vacuum cleaner without removing the alarm's cover.
- Never paint a smoke alarm.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I CHANGE MY SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES?

- The SJRFD feels that best practice is to replace your smoke alarm batteries every 6 months.



The St. John's Regional Fire Department wants to help you keep your family as safe as possible in the home.