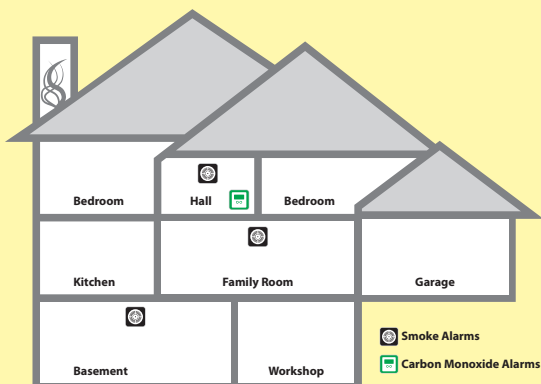




Smoke Alarms

It is the law for all Ontario homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and adjacent to each sleeping area. Most fatal fires happen at night when people are sleeping. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound to alert you.

Smoke alarms can be electrically connected, battery operated, or both.



Installing Your Smoke Alarms

Because smoke rises, always install smoke alarms on or near the ceiling. Avoid ceilings near:

- bathrooms,
- heating appliances,
- windows and
- ceiling fans.

Smoke alarms must be installed between each sleeping area and the remainder of the building. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Test your smoke alarms once each month by pressing the test button or by using smoke from a smouldering incense stick.

Smoke alarms send out a warning sound, usually an intermittent "chirp," when the battery power is low. When you hear these warning sounds, replace your battery immediately. **Never wait.**

Change the batteries at least once each year. Smoke alarms do wear out, so if you think your alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones.

Maintaining Your Smoke Alarms

Dust can clog a smoke alarm. Here is how to clean it:

- Gently vacuum alarms every six months using a soft brush
- Never vacuum electrically connected alarms unless you shut off the power.
- Test each smoke alarm when you finish cleaning it.

When installing, testing, and maintaining smoke alarms, make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions.

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1

905-477-5530 | www.markham.ca/fire

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