

MFES READY *Make your home fire safe*

Home Smoke Alarms



**Mississauga Fire
& Emergency Services**



Working smoke alarms keep you and your family safe.

It's the law and it could save your life and the lives of your loved ones. Are you **READY** to Make Your Home Fire Safe?

Location

- Every home in Ontario requires a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.
- For added protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on the wall and away from anything that can blow smoke away from it such as a ceiling fan, air registers or windows.

Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, testing and maintaining smoke alarms.



It's the Law.

Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

Homeowners

It is the homeowner's responsibility to install and maintain smoke alarms on every storey of their home and outside all sleeping areas.

Landlords

It is the landlord's responsibility to ensure their rental properties comply with the law by installing and maintaining smoke alarms on every storey of their units and outside all sleeping areas.

Tenants

It is the tenant's responsibility to contact their landlord immediately if their rental property doesn't have the required number of smoke alarms. It is against the law for tenants to remove batteries, tamper with or disable smoke alarms.

Failure to comply with the Ontario Fire Code smoke alarm requirements could result in a \$360 ticket, a \$50,000 fine for individuals or \$100,000 for corporations.

Smoke Alarm Technologies and Features

There are two smoke alarm technologies to choose from – Ionization and Photoelectric.

Ionization Smoke Alarms

Detect flaming fires better but can be prone to nuisance alarms.

Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Detect slow smoldering fires better and are not prone to nuisance alarms.

Which one is better?

To properly protect your home, install both types of smoke alarms. You may also purchase a dual-sensor smoke alarm that combines both technologies into one unit.

Smoke Alarm Maintenance and Testing



- Test your smoke alarms once a month and when you have been away from home for a few days.
- Clean the outside of the alarm by gently vacuuming a few times a year.
- Replace the battery at least once a year or if the low battery warning sounds (never use rechargeable batteries).
- Replace smoke alarms at least every 10 years – whether they are battery or electric. Look for the date on the side of the device.
- Never paint a smoke alarm.

Nuisance Alarms

Avoid installing smoke alarms in or near kitchens or bathrooms. Choose a smoke alarm with a hush feature. These devices have a button that, when pressed, will temporarily silence the alarm for seven to 10 minutes then automatically reset. Replace older alarms as they can sometimes become sensitive.

Do you have Battery or Electric Smoke Alarms in your Home?



Homes built before 1975

Battery operated (unless home was rewired).

Homes built from 1975 to 1990

An electric smoke alarm is located on the sleeping area level. Most likely the other storeys will be battery operated smoke alarms.

Homes built from 1990 to 2013

Electrically interconnected smoke alarms on every storey.

Homes built after January 1, 2014

Electrically interconnected smoke alarms on every storey, in every sleeping room and in every hallway that services those sleeping rooms. All of these electrically interconnected smoke alarms require battery backup.

Homes built after January 1, 2015

Electrically interconnected smoke alarms on every storey, in every sleeping room and in every hallway that services those sleeping rooms. All electrically interconnected smoke alarms require battery backup and a visual signalling component.

For further information on how to keep you home, family, neighbourhood and community fire safe, contact Mississauga Fire Prevention and Life Safety at 905-896-5908 or fire.prevention@mississauga.ca

Additional fire prevention resources can be found online at mfeshomesafehome.ca



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