

Installing and Maintaining Smoke Alarms

According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), installing your smoke alarms correctly, and making sure they are in working order, is an important step to making your home and family safer from fire.



The fire code requires smoke alarms to be installed inside every sleep room, in addition to outside of each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Additional smoke alarms are required for larger homes. Homes built to earlier standards often don't meet the minimum requirements. Please make sure your home meets the current standards, to keep your family safe.

Installing smoke alarms

- Choose smoke alarms that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceiling (since smoke rises). Wall-mounted alarms should be installed not more than 12 inches from the ceiling (to the top of the alarm).
- For pitched ceilings, install within three feet of the peak, but not within the apex of the pitch (four inches down from the peak).
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts.
- Never paint smoke alarms.
- For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms, all from the same manufacturer.

Testing smoke alarms

- Test at least once a month.
- Make sure everyone in the home understand the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

If your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old, Murrieta Fire & Rescue requires, under state law that residents buy new 10-year smoke detectors with a back-up battery that is manufactured to last for the life of the detector. They may need to be installed by a licensed electrician.