

Smoke alarms are a bedroom essential



A smoke alarm in every bedroom gives you and your family the best chance of surviving a fire.


Some people think the smoke alarm outside their bedroom is enough to warn them when a fire starts. Research by Fire and Rescue NSW showed that if a fire starts in a bedroom and the door is closed, the smoke alarm outside the bedroom will not sound.

Install smoke alarms in your bedrooms today!

It's the law that every home has smoke alarms. Our advice is, the more you have the safer you and your family will be. Check out the different types of smoke alarm available and see which type is right for you.

See Victoria's smoke alarm legislation information on the next page.

Did you know
72% of house fires that
end in death start in
bedrooms and living
areas when people
are sleeping?

		Cost from:
Good	Smoke alarm powered by a 9-volt battery Cons: Cost to replace battery each year.	\$20 each
Better	A smoke alarm powered by a 10-year lithium battery in a tamperproof chamber. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The battery will not need to be replaced each year.	\$30 each
Best	Wireless interconnected smoke alarm with a 10-year lithium battery. Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When one smoke alarm activates, all alarms will sound.	\$90 each

Victorian smoke alarm legislation

By law, you must have smoke alarms between each sleeping area (usually your bedroom) and the rest of the house.

By law, you must have at least one smoke alarm on each level of a home.

Smoke alarms must meet Australian standard: AS 3786.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in every sleeping area and living room. If one smoke alarm activates, all alarms will sound.

Smoke alarms, including those attached to mains power, should be replaced every 10 years.



Residential homes built or significantly renovated	Minimum smoke alarm requirement
Before 1 August 1997	Smoke alarm powered by a 9-volt battery
After 1 August 1997	Hard wired smoke alarms that are connected to 240-volt mains power and have a back-up battery.
After 1 May 2014	Interconnected, hard wired smoke alarms that are connected to 240-volt mains power and have a back-up battery

**All smoke alarms required by law must be replaced with the smoke alarm according to property type above.*

Photoelectric or Ionisation or Dual-sensor?

Research suggests that the location and number of smoke alarms you have installed in your home is more important than the type of smoke alarm.

Ionisation smoke alarms use a tiny amount of radioactive material which is very good at detecting the type of smoke given off by fast flaming fires. Ionisation smoke alarms are more likely to give a false alarm when installed near kitchens or bathrooms.

Photoelectric smoke alarms use a beam of light to detect the type of smoke typically given off by smouldering fires.

Dual-sensor smoke alarms have the combined features of a photoelectric and ionisation smoke alarms. These devices have been shown to perform more consistently across a range of fire conditions.

Other resources:

cfa.vic.gov.au/smokealarms

frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms



A smoke alarm is a bedroom essential

