



# SMOKE ALARMS

## LOW COST

## BIG PROTECTION



Smoke alarm  
From **\$10**

Smoke alarms cost less than you might think – and they’re the most affordable way to protect the people you live with.

In Australia, it’s the law for every home to have smoke alarms. Fire services know that adding more smoke alarms than the minimum extends protection to where it matters most. For as little as \$10, you can buy and install additional smoke alarms to make your household safer.

### You may already have smoke alarms installed, but have you considered adding them inside bedrooms?

Some people assume the smoke alarm in the hallway is enough to wake them up if a fire starts. However, research has found that if a fire starts in a bedroom and the door is closed, the smoke alarm outside the room may not sound.

Adding smoke alarms inside bedrooms doesn’t have to be expensive – you can do it in stages. For example, fit one bedroom at a time and build up over time.

The most important thing is to **start now** and make sure you have working smoke alarms throughout your home, **including in every bedroom.**

### SMOKE ALARM COSTS

RATING	POWER/BATTERY	KEY POINTS	COST FROM
Good	9-volt battery	<b>Pros:</b> Low upfront cost <b>Cons:</b> Battery needs replacing each year	\$10 each
Better	10-year long-life battery (sealed/ tamper resistant)	<b>Pros:</b> No yearly battery replacement <b>Cons:</b> Higher upfront cost than a 9-volt alarm	\$20 each
Best	Wireless, interconnected with 10 year long-life battery	<b>Pros:</b> If one smoke alarm activates, all smoke alarms sound (better whole home warning) <b>Cons:</b> Highest upfront cost	\$45 each

## Which type should you choose?



**Photoelectric alarms** are generally better at detecting slow, smouldering fires (for example, from a cigarette or a smouldering couch).



**Ionisation alarms** respond more quickly to fast-flaming fires. However, they can be more likely to false alarms (for example, near kitchens), so placement and regular maintenance matter.



**Dual-sensor alarms** combine photoelectric and ionisation technology to cover both smouldering and fast-flaming fires. They usually cost more but offer better protection.



### TIP

If cost is a barrier, start with the highest-priority locations (especially bedrooms) and add more alarms over time.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and use a licensed electrician for any hardwired work.

## INSTALLATION COSTS

OPTION	BEST FOR	TYPICAL COST
<b>DIY</b> (battery-operated alarms)	Cost savings and quickly adding smoke alarms to bedrooms	\$0 install cost (you only pay for the alarm)
<b>Pay a professional</b> (supply and install)	If you're short on time or prefer someone to set it up for you	Commonly around \$100-\$140+ per smoke alarm
<b>Electrician</b> (hardwired alarms)	New or replacement hardwired smoke alarms and for renovations	Often \$160-\$350+ per smoke alarm (varies by wiring and access)

*Please note: The installation costs outlined above are indicative only. Actual costs may vary based on factors such as property type, location, and installer. We encourage people to conduct their own research.*

## Where should smoke alarms be installed?

To stay safe – and comply with Australian law – make sure smoke alarms are installed between every sleeping area and the rest of your home. Each level of your home must have at least one smoke alarm, and all alarms must meet Australian Standard AS 3786. **For the highest level of protection**, install interconnected smoke alarms in every bedroom and living area. If one alarm detects smoke, they all activate giving everyone in the home an early warning.

### Minimum smoke alarm requirements for residential homes

When replacing smoke alarms, you must maintain the minimum standards required for your home. Any additional alarms installed beyond the minimum do not need to meet these standards

#### Date residential homes were built or significantly renovated, and the minimum smoke alarm requirement:

##### Before 1 August 1997

Any smoke alarm including replaceable 9-volt battery type

##### After 1 August 1997

Hardwired smoke alarms connected to 240-volt mains power with a backup battery

##### After 1 May 2014

Interconnected, hardwired smoke alarms connected to 240-volt mains power with a backup battery



**Remember:** all smoke alarms – including hardwired units – should be replaced every 10 years.