

The Ontario Fire Code requires that all business workplace have a working smoke alarm installed:

- On every floor level
- Outside all sleeping areas (if applicable)

Smoke alarm maintenance

Here are a few things to consider when maintaining your smoke alarm:

- Never remove batteries from smoke alarms. If false alarms are a problem, try moving the alarm to another location or purchase an alarm with a pause feature that temporarily silences the alarm.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Test smoke alarms once a month and replace the batteries every year.
- Clean your smoke alarms often by following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that all members of your household know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.
- Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it.

Where to install smoke alarms

Here are a few things to consider when installing your smoke alarm:

- If anyone in the workplace sleeps with the bedroom door closed, consider installing a smoke alarm inside the bedroom.
- On floor levels not containing sleeping areas, install smoke alarms in the common area or at stairwells leading to an upper floor.
- Do not install smoke alarms in areas of cold temperatures or high heat (see manufacturer's recommendations).
- Do not install smoke alarms closer than 1 m or 3' to kitchens or bathrooms.
- Install smoke alarms high on a wall or on the ceiling. If mounting on a wall, position the top of the smoke alarm approximately 10 - 30 cm (4" to 12") from the ceiling. If mounting on the ceiling, position the alarm at least 10 cm (4") away from a wall.
- Do not install smoke alarms near vents where air movement may prevent the alarm from working.