

Smoke alarms in homes

A smoke detector is an inexpensive form of life insurance. It warns you of dangerous smoke.

HOW MANY SMOKE DETECTORS DO YOU NEED?

- You should have at least one smoke detector on every floor of your home.
- Smoke detectors should be installed near bedrooms. Bear in mind that closed doors and distracting noises can make it impossible to hear a smoke detector from every bedroom.
- A smoke detector's detection area should not be more than 60m². In addition, the distance between two smoke detectors should not be more than 12m.
- Smoke detectors should fulfil the guidelines of the Swedish Consumer Agency.

Remember: You are most vulnerable to smoke and fire when asleep.

WHERE SHOULD SMOKE DETECTORS BE INSTALLED?

Smoke detectors should be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; however, the following generally applies:

- Smoke detectors should be placed at the highest point of the room, preferably in the middle of the room.
- If your home is on several floors, a smoke detector should be placed on the upper floor where the stairway ends.
- Note that a smoke detector should be mounted on the ceiling, not the wall!
- The smoke detector should be at least 50cm from any other objects.
- It should not be positioned near any ventilation ducts.
- Don't mount a smoke detector in kitchens, bathrooms, garages or hobby rooms where it may give rise to annoying false alarms.

Don't forget to test a newly installed smoke detector!



MAINTENANCE AND TESTING

In order to keep your smoke detector in working order, you should:

- vacuum the exterior of the smoke detector once a year.
- exchange batteries once a year (e.g. in early December). However, we recommend lithium batteries, which last up to five times longer than ordinary alkaline batteries. This means that you do not have to change batteries every year.
- test the smoke detector at least once every three months and when you have been away from home for an extended period.
- replace smoke detectors after eight to ten years. They have a limited life span.

TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BY:

- pressing the test button, or
- holding a newly extinguished candle under the smoke detector.

IF YOU SEE A FIRE, ALWAYS RING 112

The Swedish Fire Protection Association is a membership organisation that works to promote fire safety in Sweden. We help private individuals, businesses and other organisations to take their own responsibility for fire safety through information and training initiatives. Telephone +46 (0)8-588 474 00. www.svbf.se