

# SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

## 1. Protect yourself and your family.

Install smoke alarms - it's the law. The Prosper Fire Code requires that every home have working smoke alarms.



## 2. Smoke alarms save lives.

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often, victims never wake up. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound an alarm to alert you, giving you precious time to escape.



## 3. Buying the best alarm.

There are many types of smoke alarms, each with different features. Alarms can be electrically connected, battery powered or a combination of both. This combination - and a pause feature to reduce nuisance alarms – are highly recommended.



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## 4. One smoke alarm is not enough.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. If you or your loved ones sleep with bedroom doors closed, install an alarm inside each bedroom.



## 5. Where to install smoke alarms.

Because smoke rises, you should place alarms on the ceiling. If you cannot do this, place them high up on a wall, according to manufacturer's instructions. There are certain locations to avoid such as near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows, or close to ceiling fans.



## 6. Test your smoke alarm regularly.

Every month, test your smoke alarms, using the alarm test button. Once a month test your alarms using smoke from a smoldering cotton string. Follow your owner's manual.



## 7. Change your clock, change your battery.

Install a new battery of the proper type at least once a year. If the low battery warning beeps, replace the battery immediately. We change our clocks each spring and fall so this is a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries too.



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## 8. Gently vacuum alarm every six months.

Dust can clog a smoke alarm, so carefully vacuum the inside of a battery powered unit using the soft bristle brush. If electrically connected, shut off the power and vacuum the outside vents only. Restore power and test unit when finished.



## 9. Smoke alarms don't last forever.

Smoke alarms do wear out, so if you think your alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones. Why not replace them with long-life smoke alarms that will eliminate the need for annual battery replacement and the potential hazard of dead batteries for up to 10 years.



## 10. Plan your escape.

Make sure that everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm and what to do if a fire occurs. Regularly practice your home fire escape plan. Know two ways out of every room and have a pre-arranged meeting place outside. Once out, stay out and call the fire department from a neighbor's home.



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## Disposing of Smoke Detectors

Both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms contain plastic and electronic circuit boards and in some cases batteries (alkaline or lithium). Ionization technology also includes a chamber containing radioactive material incorporated into a gold matrix. Because of the long [half-life](#) of [americium-241](#) the amount of radioactive material in the smoke alarm at the end of its certified useful life will be about the same as when you bought it.

EPA's household waste program encourages waste reduction and minimization. State and local practices for safe disposal of smoke alarms vary, but most communities seek to limit the amount of material that requires disposal in a municipal solid waste landfills and incinerators. Waste minimization reduces costs and protects the environment.

Some State Radiation Control Programs conduct an annual round-up of ionization smoke alarms similar to the roundup of batteries or hazardous household chemicals. Other state or local governments recommend that you return the used smoke alarm to the supplier. The address of the supplier is usually listed in the product warranty or user's manual. If the smoke detector has an alkaline or lithium battery, check with your local community recycling program for disposal.