

**BEEP!** **BEEP!**  
**BEEP!**



# Change Your Clocks, Check Your Smoke Alarm

## Batteries Checklist

*Working smoke alarms save lives – in the event of a house fire you're **FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE** if your home doesn't have one. To protect your family, change your batteries once a year when daylight savings ends and follow the steps below to make sure your home is fire ready.*

### MONTHLY:



- Check the battery is working on all your smoke alarms by pressing the test button with a broom handle – if it beeps the batteries are good, if not replace them immediately.
- Keep your smoke alarm free of dust by vacuuming it regularly.
- Check it's operation with an aerosol smoke detector tester that is designed for testing Ionisation and Photoelectric type smoke alarms.

### YEARLY:

- Change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries. If your alarms are hard-wired, don't forget to change the backup batteries too.
- Check the dates on all your smoke alarms – if any are over 10 years' old, replace them.
- Review your fire escape plan – make sure everyone, including children, know what to do.
- Help any elderly friends, family or neighbours to test their alarms and replace the batteries.

### REMEMBER:

- Smoke alarms have a lifespan of 10 years – replace any that are older than 10 years immediately. The date of manufacture or use by date will be printed on the alarm.
- When replacing, choose a photoelectric smoke alarm – they are more effective at detecting a wider range of fires, including smouldering fires and thick smoke.
- Install smoke alarms on every storey, and outside each bedroom as a minimum.
- Consider interconnecting your alarms, so if one goes off, they all go off. This means you'll get early warning wherever the fire breaks out.

***Smoke alarms are very effective – but only if they're kept in good working order. Use the end of daylight savings as a trigger to think about fire safety. Change your clocks, check your smoke alarms.***



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## What's the Difference Between Ionisation and Photoelectric Smoke Alarms?

We'll start with ionisation – these smoke alarms can quickly detect invisible smoke produced by fast flaming fires. They are responsive to fires such as cooking, paper or flammable liquid fires. They will alarm when the ion flow in the detection chamber is affected by smoke particles.

Photoelectric smoke alarms use optical detection, and are triggered when smoke particles enter the light path in the detection chamber. They are most responsive to slow, smouldering fires, such as those that can occur in the home while you sleep.

## Wireless Interconnected Smoke Alarm.

Wireless interconnect bases for smoke alarms wirelessly interconnect smoke alarms and can connect up to 24 smoke alarms in a network 100m line of sight, 30m indoors 240VAC mains powered. Quick to install and avoids cost of running interconnecting cables. All smoke alarms in the wireless network activates when one smoke alarm activates.

## Which Smoke Alarm Should I Choose?

Fires can start in many different ways, and are often unpredictable, so installing both ionisation and photoelectric smoke alarms is the best choice for your protection. It's also important to strategically locate them within the home, to maximise their effectiveness.

Because many residential fires begin by smouldering, photoelectric smoke alarms provide the best overall protection. So if you decide to only install one type of smoke alarms, we recommend you choose photoelectric.

## And Finally... Make Sure They Work

*Once you've installed your smoke alarms, it's important to keep them working. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and you can do this by pressing the test button with a broom handle. If your smoke alarm is beeping, it's likely it needs a new battery – if it beeps after a new battery is installed, it should be replaced. You should make a habit of changing all 9V batteries in your smoke alarms at least yearly. All smoke alarms have a lifespan and should be replaced after 10 years – the date of manufacture can be found on the alarm.*



# the Fire Safety Kangaroo!



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Everyone Out