



## HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST SMOKE ALARMS FOR YOUR HOME

According to the [NFPA](#), a home fire occurs approximately once every 86 seconds in the U.S. Properly installed and maintained, residential smoke alarms are one of the best and least expensive ways to provide an early warning when a fire begins. Smoke alarms save lives, prevent injuries and minimize property damage by alerting residents early to a fire hazard.

### Smoke Alarm Facts

- According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), while most U.S. homes have smoke alarms, approximately five million households do not have alarms.
- Three out of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms due to dead, missing or disconnected batteries.
- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the risk of dying in homes without smoke alarms is twice as high as it is in homes that have working smoke alarms.

### Smoke Alarm Tips

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside sleeping area and on every level of the home, including basements and finished attics, and at the top and bottom of stairways.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years and test them weekly. If you don't know when your home's alarms were installed, replace them.
- Consider installing smoke alarms that contain a sealed-in, tamper-proof battery that will power the unit for 10 years, like Kidde's Worry-Free alarms.
- Gently vacuum your smoke alarm monthly to prevent dirt from blocking the sensor.
- Do not disable a smoke alarm in nuisance situations. Do not "borrow" smoke alarm batteries for other uses such as toys or radios.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan with the family, so that everyone knows what to do when the alarm sounds.

### Types of Smoke Alarms

There are two types of smoke alarm sensor technology: photoelectric and ionization.

- **Ionization** sensing alarms may detect invisible fire particles (associated with fast flaming fires) sooner than photoelectric alarms.
- **Photoelectric** sensing alarms may detect visible fire particles (associated with slow smoldering fires) sooner than ionization alarms.

Studies show both types will effectively detect either type of fire. For optimal protection, install both smoke alarm technologies in your home to maximize the chances of escape.

Kidde offers photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms, as well as a dual-sensor model, which incorporates both technologies.