

Maintaining Your Smoke Alarms

Only working smoke alarms save lives

Smoke alarms require regular testing and cleaning to provide effective protection.

DFES recommends the following key smoke alarm maintenance routine:

- Test your smoke alarm every month to ensure the battery and the alarm sounder are operating. Hold down the test button until you hear a loud alert tone, then release. Use a broom handle if you cannot reach, but be careful you do not damage the smoke alarm. You may need to press the button again to turn off the alarm.
- Vacuum your smoke alarm with a soft brush attachment around the smoke alarm vents every 6 months. This will remove any build-up of dust and cobwebs.
- Use a surface insect spray around the smoke alarm to prevent insects from nesting inside it. Ensure you cover the smoke alarm while you spray to ensure you do not spray inside the smoke alarm.
- Never paint over or cover your smoke alarms.
- Your smoke alarm battery may need to be replaced every year. Smoke alarms with a non-replaceable battery may carry a warning that the battery is not replaceable. Always check the manufacturer's instructions before replacing the battery.
- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.

Did you know...

- Smoke alarms make a warning 'beep' or 'chirp' when there is a fault or when the battery is low. Before changing the battery, check with the manufacturer's instructions. The chirp may also indicate the smoke alarm has become contaminated.
- If after changing the battery the smoke alarm continues to sound a warning 'beep' or 'chirp', the smoke alarm may be faulty and require replacement.
- A licensed electrical contractor is required to disconnect or install mains powered smoke alarms. All other smoke alarm maintenance can be done by an adult.
- Mains powered smoke alarms may give a low battery warning after periods of extended mains power outage. You should be aware that rechargeable batteries may need a few days to recharge after the mains power is restored. If your smoke alarm does not have a rechargeable battery you will need to replace the battery. Check with your manufacturer if you need to replace the battery or if the unit will recharge.



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In the event of a fire

- Crawl low under smoke.
- Assist or alert any people in danger, but only if it is safe to do so.
- Go to your safe meeting place, such as your letter box.
- Call **000** (triple zero).
- Wait for firefighters to arrive.
- Do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances.

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**

