

## **BEFORE YOU INSTALL YOUR SMOKE ALARM**

**Important!** Read “Recommended Locations for Smoke Alarms” and “Locations to Avoid for Smoke Alarms” instructions enclosed.

Smoke detectors can **ONLY** give an early warning of developing fires if they are installed, maintained, and located where smoke can reach them, and where all residents can hear its alarm, as described in the instructions/information. They do not sense gas, heat, or flame. They cannot prevent or extinguish fires.

### **WARNING!**

It is recommended that you install special units, which use devices like flashing strobe lights to alert hearing impaired residents.

## **WEEKLY TESTING**

### **WARNING!**

**NEVER** use an open flame of any kind to test a smoke detector. You might accidentally damage or set fire to the unit or to your home. The built-in test switch accurately tests the unit’s operation.

## **REGULAR MAINTENANCE**

**Important!** Actual service life depends on the Smoke Alarm and the environment in which it is installed. All the batteries specified are acceptable replacement batteries for the unit. Regardless of the manufacturer’s suggested battery life, you **MUST** replace the battery immediately once the unit starts “chirping” (the “low battery warning”).

Smoke Alarms have a limited life. The unit should be replaced immediately if it is not operating properly. You should always replace a Smoke Alarm after 10 years from date of purchase. Write the purchase date on the space provided on back of unit.

## **IF SMOKE ALARM SOUNDS**

### **WARNING!**

If the unit alarms and you are not testing the unit, it is warning you of a potentially dangerous situation that requires your immediate attention. Get everyone out of the house immediately. **NEVER** ignore any alarm.

## **RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS FOR SMOKE ALARMS**

Install Smoke Alarms:

- On every level of your home, including finished attics and basements.
- In every bedroom, especially if people sleep with the door partly or completely closed.
- In the hall near every sleeping area. If your home has multiple sleeping areas, install a unit in each. If a hall is more than 40 feet long (12 meters), install a unit at each end.
- At the top of the first-to-second floor stairway, and at bottom of the basement stairway.

## **LOCATIONS TO AVOID FOR SMOKE ALARMS**

- Where combustion particles are produced. Keep units at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the sources of combustion particles (stove, furnace, water heater, space heater) if possible. In areas where a 20-foot-distance is not possible – in modular, mobile, or smaller homes, for example – it is recommended the Smoke Alarm be placed as far from these fuel-burning sources as possible.
- In air streams near kitchens. Air currents can draw cooking smoke into the sensing chamber of a Smoke Alarm near the kitchen.
- In very damp, humid or steamy areas, or directly near bathrooms with showers. Keep units at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from showers, saunas, dishwashers, etc.
- In very dusty, dirty, or greasy areas.
- Near fresh air vents, ceiling fans, or in very drafty areas.
- In insect infested areas.
- Less than 12 inches (305mm) away from fluorescent lights.
- Avoid dead air spaces.

## **LIMITATIONS OF SMOKE ALARMS**

Smoke Alarms have played a key role in reducing deaths resulting from home fires worldwide. However, like any warning device, Smoke Alarms can only work if they are properly located, installed, and maintained, and if smoke reaches them. They are not foolproof.