

SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE

- Test smoke alarms regularly using the test button.
- Clean smoke alarms regularly using a vacuum cleaner or soft brush to remove bugs and dust.
- Replace removable batteries each year, if applicable. A 'chirping' sound could mean the battery is low.
- Do not tamper with smoke alarms (e.g. removing batteries or painting over).
- If cooking or steam sets off the alarm, open a window or wave a towel under it for air flow, or use the hush button (if fitted).
- Replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old. Look for a sticker or stamp on the base of the unit with a production date.

NUISANCE ALARMS

Sometimes smoke alarms activate when there is no smoke or fire. This could be because:

- » they have a build-up of dust or insects
- » they are in the wrong location (too close to cooking fumes or bathroom steam)
- » they are near or past their 10-year life span
- » the battery requires replacement, or
- » there is an electrical or product fault.

If firefighters are called to an active smoke alarm and someone is home, crews can help silence the alarm by pushing the hush button. But if there is a fault, firefighters cannot stop the alarm. The homeowner must arrange for a qualified tradesperson to fix the problem.

If no one is home, firefighters will make sure there is no sign of smoke, fire, or other emergency; but they cannot force entry without an emergency. They may leave a card to tell you they were there.

PREPARE YOUR FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Smoke and fire can spread through a house quickly. A smoke alarm will alert you, but you need to know how to get out fast to survive. Make a home fire escape plan now.

- Draw your home on a sheet of paper and mark your way out. Try to plan two ways out of every room.
- Think about how your security may stop your escape. (e.g. locked doors and windows)
- Think about how someone who needs help will get out, such as children, the elderly, or anyone with impaired mobility.
- Pick a meeting place outside, such as the letterbox. Think about who will call the fire service on Triple Zero (000).
- Practice your fire escape plan every six months. Practice in different scenarios such as at night, with the lights off. Use a timer to create a sense of urgency.

safehome

Safehome is a free QFES program where firefighters visit your home and help you identify fire safety hazards. They can advise you on the correct placement of smoke alarms.

Call **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** to book.

Visit qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms for more information or contact us on **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** or at SmokeAlarms@qfes.qld.gov.au.



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SMOKE ALARMS in Queensland

Queensland is transitioning to new smoke alarm legislation. It requires all homes have interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms installed in bedrooms and other locations by 1 January 2027.

The only homes that do not yet need to meet the new legislation are owner-occupied homes that were purchased before 1 January 2022. These homes must meet existing standards which include at minimum, a working smoke alarm installed on each storey, and

- » Existing smoke alarms produced more than 10 years ago must be replaced.
- » Smoke alarms that do not work when tested must be replaced immediately.
- » Existing hardwired smoke alarms that need replacement, must be replaced with hardwired smoke alarms.
- » When smoke alarms are replaced, they must be replaced with photoelectric alarms that meet Australian Standard AS3786-2014.

NEW SMOKE ALARM LEGISLATION

Smoke alarms in all homes must:

- » be photoelectric (AS 3786-2014)
- » not contain an ionisation sensor
- » be less than 10 years old
- » work when tested, and
- » be interconnected with every other required smoke alarm so all alarms activate together.

Smoke alarms must be installed on each storey:

- » in each bedroom
- » in hallways that connect bedrooms to the rest of the home or if there is no hallway, in rooms that connect to bedrooms, and
- » if there are no bedrooms on a storey at least one smoke alarm must be installed in the path of travel to exit the building.

Smoke alarms must be hardwired or powered by a non-removable 10-year battery.

Where possible, smoke alarms must be placed on the ceiling and not:

- » within 300mm of a corner of a ceiling and a wall
- » within 300mm of a light fitting
- » within 400mm of an air-conditioning supply vent, and
- » within 400mm of the blades of a ceiling fan.

There are special requirements for stairwells, sloping ceilings, and ceilings with exposed beams explained in the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008*.

If the location requirements are not possible, the alarm can be put in another place that will still provide a warning.

All homes must be fully compliant by 1 January 2027.

If you live in a unit with an integrated fire detection alarm system installed, your home could already be compliant.

HOMES SOLD, LEASED OR LEASE RENEWED

All homes or units being sold or leased, or an existing lease renewed must now meet the new legislation.

When a property is sold, the vendor must lodge a form with the Queensland Land Registry stating that compliant smoke alarms are installed, and the buyer has been informed.

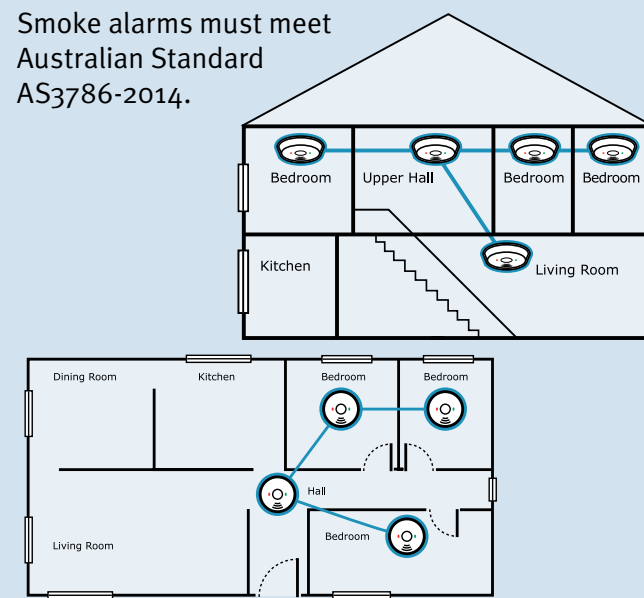
NEW AND RENOVATED HOMES

As part of a building approval process for new homes and homes being largely renovated, a Building Certifier will make sure smoke alarms comply with the law, as detailed in the *National Construction Code*.

GET INTERCONNECTED

When one goes off, they all go off, giving everyone extra time to escape. Smoke alarms can be interconnected directly (hardwired by a licenced electrician) or by wireless technology.

Smoke alarms must meet Australian Standard AS3786-2014.



WHAT IF I AM A LANDLORD?

You are required by law to install and maintain smoke alarms in your rental property. When a new rental lease is signed or a lease is renewed, the rental property must comply with the new legislation.

You must test and clean each smoke alarm within 30 days before the start of a new tenancy agreement.

You must replace smoke alarms when they reach 10 years from the production date or they do not work, including during a tenancy.

Owner's requirements can be completed by an agent acting for the owner.

WHAT IF I AM A TENANT?

You are required by law to test and clean each smoke alarm in the home at least once every 12 months. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) recommends smoke alarms are tested once a month.

If you notice that a smoke alarm is not working, you must advise the landlord or agent as soon as possible.

SMOKE ALARMS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

QFES offers a subsidy to assist Queensland residents who are deaf or hard of hearing to purchase special compliant smoke alarms that include a flashing light and vibrating pad. This initiative is managed by Deaf Services Queensland.

Email: dsq@deafservices.org.au

Phone: (07) 3892 8500

TTY: (07) 3892 8501