

HOW TO TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM

Smoke alarms are an easy and affordable way to protect yourself and your family from fire. But it's important to test the alarms once a month to make sure they're working properly.

WHAT SORT OF SMOKE ALARM DO YOU HAVE?

There are two kinds of smoke detectors:

BATTERY OPERATED:

affordable items you can install anywhere. You need to check the battery frequently.

AC-POWERED:

an electrician installs these because they're directly wired to a power source. But they should also have a battery fitted as a back-up, in case there is a blackout or an electrical fire that temporarily cuts off power.

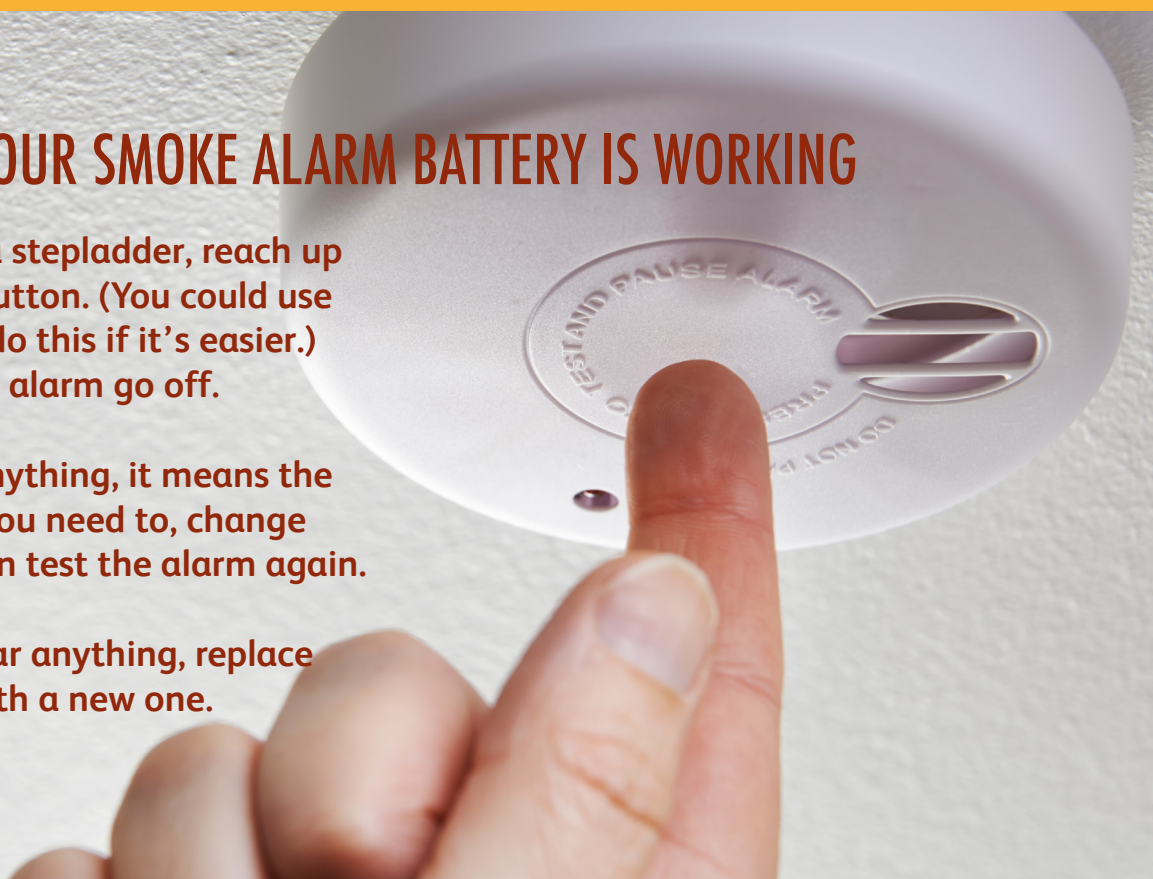


HOW TO TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERY IS WORKING

Carefully stand on a stepladder, reach up and push the test button. (You could use a broom handle to do this if it's easier.) You should hear the alarm go off.

If you don't hear anything, it means the battery is dead. If you need to, change the battery and then test the alarm again.

If you still don't hear anything, replace the smoke alarm with a new one.





HOW TO TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR IS WORKING

Carefully hold two or three lit matches together and then blow out the flame. Hold the matches so that the smoke drifts up towards the smoke alarm.

If the detector is working, the alarm will go off.

SMOKE ALARM DO'S AND DON'TS

DO... ✓

DO clean dust away from the smoke detector, with a vacuum cleaner or clean cloth, each time you test it.

DO replace the battery regularly. Your smoke alarm will beep intermittently to warn you when the battery is running low. But don't wait for that sound. Replace the battery once a year.

DO replace your smoke alarm every 10 years. They get clogged up with dust and dirt over time.

DON'T... ✗

DON'T use cleaning sprays on or around your smoke detector. They could stop it working properly.

DON'T remove the battery from your smoke alarm to use in another item, for example a toy or remote control. You'll probably forget to replace it, so you could be putting yourself and others in danger.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE, CALL:

- London Fire Brigade: **08000 28 44 28**
- Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service: **0800 587 6679**
- Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service: **01296 744477**
- Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service: **01865 842999**



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