

# Alarming facts!

On average 46 people die in fires in Ireland every year. Most of these deaths wouldn't happen if there was a working smoke alarm in the home.



## FACT!

A recent survey found that there are over 300,000 Irish homes with no smoke alarms fitted!

# Test your alarm

To make sure your smoke alarm works when you need it:

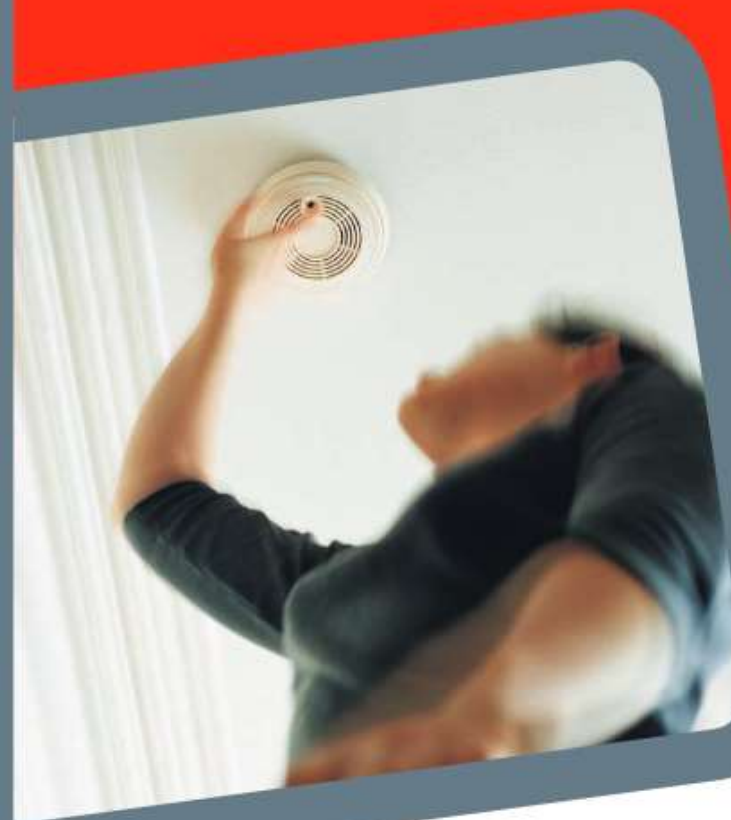
- ✓ Test the alarm once a week – push and hold the test button until it beeps.
- ✓ Change the battery once a year.
- ✓ Every six months, vacuum and brush the casing to get rid of dust.
- ✓ Replace the smoke alarm after ten years.



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# Smoke and heat alarms



**fire safety**  
*Be on your guard*



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# How many smoke or heat alarms do I need?

- ✓ Fit a smoke alarm in every room (except the bathroom and garage) to fully protect your home. Fit a heat alarm in the kitchen.
- ✓ It is essential that smoke alarms are fitted in the hall and landing of every home.



# Where do I fit the alarms?

- ✓ On the ceiling as close to the centre of the room as you can.
- ✓ Check if you can hear the smoke alarm at night with the door closed.

# Types of Smoke Alarm

## Ionisation and Optical

1. Ionisation smoke alarm  
The cheapest and most common type. Very sensitive to small particles of smoke from flaming fires like chip pans. Will detect this type of fire before the smoke gets too thick.
2. Optical smoke alarm  
More expensive but better able to detect larger particles from slow burning fires such as smouldering foam or pvc wiring.

### FACT!

You can get 10 year smoke alarms that are fitted with a long life lithium battery or a sealed power pack that lasts for 10 years.

# Escape

A smoke alarm gives you an early warning of a fire. If you hear the alarm, know what to do.

## Make sure to:

- ✓ Plan an evacuation drill with all of your family and practice it regularly.
- ✓ When practising your evacuation drill have an alternative exit in case your primary exit is blocked by fire.
- ✓ Have a meeting point in a safe place outside of the house.
- ✓ All escape routes should be kept clear day and night.
- ✓ Keep keys to doors and windows easily and immediately available.



### FACT!

Smoke, not heat or flames, causes most fire deaths. It can take as little as three minutes to die from breathing smoke.

### FACT!

Smoke alarms do not put out fires!

