

# Good advice on smoke alarms in the home



A smoke alarm is an inexpensive form of life insurance since it reacts to the dangerous smoke and sends out a warning.

## How many smoke alarms do you need?

- You ought to have one smoke alarm on each floor level of your home.
- Each smoke alarm should have a maximum detection area of 60 m<sup>2</sup> and the distance between two smoke alarms should not exceed 12 metres.
- Smoke alarms should be placed close to bedrooms. Remember that closed doors and high noise levels can make it impossible to hear a smoke alarm from every bedroom.
- Check the packaging to ensure that the smoke alarm meets the requirements of the standard SS-EN 14604. It's when you're asleep that you are most vulnerable to smoke and fire!

## Where should smoke alarms be mounted?

Supplier instructions will provide you with information on where smoke alarms should be placed, but in general the following points apply:

- Smoke alarms should be placed at the highest point of the room and preferably in the middle.
- If your home has more than one storey a smoke alarm should be placed where the stairs lead up to the next floor level.
- Smoke alarms shall be placed on the ceiling, not the wall.
- Smoke alarms shall be placed at least 50 cm from any other objects.
- Smoke alarms should not be placed close to ventilation openings.
- Smoke alarms should not be placed close to cookers or in bathrooms, garages or hobby rooms where they may set off irritating false alarms.

*Do not forget to test smoke alarms after you have mounted them!*

## Maintenance

- Clean the outside of the smoke alarm using a vacuum cleaner once a year.
- We recommend lithium batteries since they have a useful life five times longer than regular alkaline batteries and won't need replacing every year. Should you decide to use regular alkaline batteries then remember to replace them every year (for example at the beginning of December).
- Test the smoke alarms every three months or when you have been away from home for a long period.
- Replace smoke alarms after 8–10 years as they have a restricted useful life.

## Testing the smoke alarm

The smoke alarm can be tested by pressing the test button or holding a candle that you have just blown out under it.

## Where should you dispose of smoke alarms?

Smoke alarms belong to the category of products that are to be disposed of with other electronic waste at a recycling centre. Remove the batteries and sort them separately. You can also return your smoke alarm to the supplier when you buy a new one.

## Protect your home from fire

In addition to smoke alarms we also recommend that you go the whole way towards protecting your home from fire with Brandsäkert hem®. Six steps are all that is required:

- A reliable fire detection system
- Powder extinguisher 6 kg, class 43A 233BC
- Fire blanket, size 120 x 180 cm
- Automatic cooker supervision
- A file containing information for residents
- Training course You can read more about the different steps on [www.brandsakerthem.se](http://www.brandsakerthem.se).

## ALWAYS CALL 112 IN THE EVENT OF FIRE

The Swedish Fire Protection Association is a member organization which works towards making Sweden a safer place. Through information and training we help people, companies and organizations to take responsibility for fire prevention. 08-588 474 00. [www.brandskyddsforeningen.se](http://www.brandskyddsforeningen.se)