

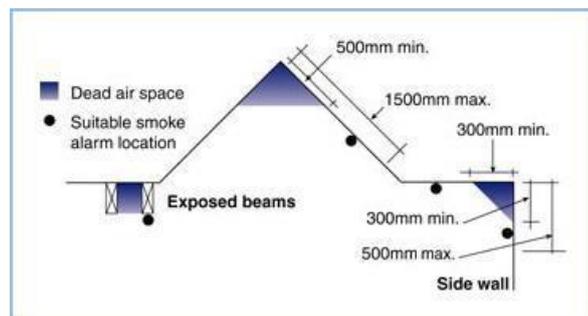
HOW TO INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke Alarms are essential to everywhere someone will sleep. The NZ Building Code requires each dwelling should have one either in each bedroom or in a corridor within 3m of the bedroom door, covering the escape route from bedrooms, and one at the top and bottom of stairwells where installed. All detectors must have a hush facility to silence the alarm while the smoke is cleared. This prevents the temptation of talking the alarm down and disabling it.

For safety, we recommend photoelectronic smoke alarms are placed within any space someone will sleep, and we additionally recommend that spaces where a fire is likely to start should be covered to allow occupants to be aware of a fire developing. We recommend detectors are inter-connected where possible. If you use a security alarm with smoke detectors, we recommend the alarm tone for the smoke alarm is different from the security alarm and does not exceed 100dB(A) anywhere in the building.

For smoke alarms, it is advisable to use a detector with a 10 year battery as these are cheaper across the life of the detector and prevent the detector from beeping in the middle of the night. Quality alarms can be purchased from FFP.co.nz or from any hardware store. All home smoke alarms must be replaced at 10 years of age.

Install smoke detectors on the ceiling of the room and on the apex or high side of a sloping ceiling – no closer than 300mm to the wall or 500mm to an apex. This area is a dead air space and smoke will be slow to accumulate in these areas. Where exposed beams are fitted, place the detector on the bottom of the beam. Detectors can be fitted to the wall as a last resort, but no lower than 500mm from the ceiling, and no higher than 300mm from the ceiling. Remember hot gasses rise.



Avoid placing detectors where false alarms will occur. Kitchens, laundries, bathrooms, garages and spaces where open fires exist are all spaces where steam, dust, aerosols and smoke will cause the detector to operate regularly. If you wish to protect kitchens, place the detector as far away from cooking appliances as you can and ensure you use adequate ventilation. Garages and laundries can both be protected if they are placed in clean areas away from likely contamination.



Test your smoke alarm regularly. Press the test button at least once a month and hear the alarm sound. If it does not operate, replace the battery, and if it still does not work, replace the unit.

If an alarm sounds when smoke is detected, press the hush button. This will silence the alarm for a few minutes. Ventilate the room and clear any remaining smoke away. The alarm will beep when it reaches the end of its hush period, and will automatically resume normal operation.

If you discover any fire, call 111 for the Fire Service immediately.