

5 Things to consider when choosing, installing and using smoke alarms

1. Smoke from a fire must be able to reach a smoke alarm to get detected by it

During installation it is to be ensured that smoke can reach and penetrate a smoke alarm unhindered and as quickly as possible. As smoke rises to the ceiling due to the thermal effect of the fire, smoke alarms shall be sited in the middle of a room and on the ceiling. Wall mounting should only be done in exceptional cases. Smoke alarms should be installed at a distance of 30-50 cm from any obstacles such as lights, joists or furniture. This is nationally regulated differently ... if there is no guideline in your country, decide for 50 cm.

2. Because you cannot smell anything when you are asleep you need to be protected in your bedroom

Smoke alarms should be installed in all bedrooms of a dwelling. This applies also to guestrooms in B&B as long as there is no fire code with different provisions for those premises. If you have to escape, you need a safe escape route! Therefore, smoke alarms should be installed in all corridors and stairways of your dwelling.

3. Since small children tend to hide from fire or smoke rather than flee, they need the special protection of their parents

Rooms where children usually play and/or sleep should be equipped with smoke alarms. To ensure that parents or other persons present get reliably alarmed in case of smoke ignition in these rooms it is recommended to interconnect all smoke alarms in dwellings.

4. If you don't know something 100%, check it out..

The product standard EN 14604 demands a means for testing the smoke alarm and as EN 14604 is mandatory in the EU, each smoke alarm available in the European internal market has such means. To ensure that a smoke alarm is fully operational, it is to be regularly tested using this means. It is simply a button press and if you get a beep in return, you can be sure that everything is fine.

5. Nobody lives forever - not even smoke alarms

Experts agree that smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years because the smoke sensor becomes less sensitive over time and the accumulation of various contaminants (e.g. dust) affects the function of the smoke alarm over its lifetime.

Be green

Please think of our planet and dispose of your smoke alarms at the end of their life in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. There are many valuable raw materials contained in a smoke alarm for which a second life is possible and makes sense.