

How to Look After Your Heat and Smoke Detectors

Smoke and heat detectors and alarms can be a very useful tool to have in your home and may save your life. But many people experience false alarms with smoke and heat detectors that ultimately make them less effective. By keeping your smoke and heat detector clean and charged, and avoiding putting the unit in places that are not optimal, you can prevent false alarms and may help save yourself or your family when an actual fire occurs.

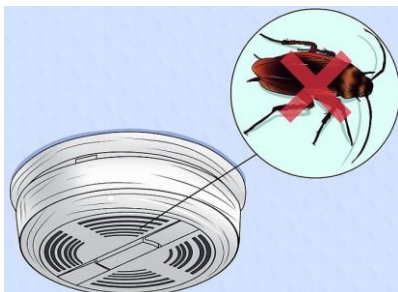
Preventing False Alarms



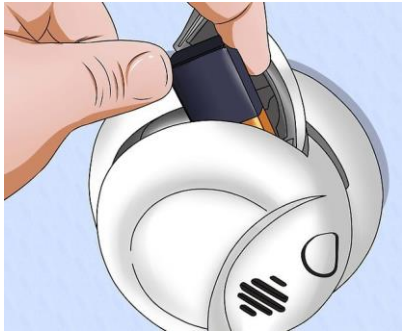
Clean your smoke and heat detector regularly. Any dust or dirt that covers your smoke and heat detector or its internal sensor chamber can set it off when there is no fire. By cleaning the unit every couple of weeks, you may minimise the number of false alarms you experience or avoid them altogether.

- Make sure to dust or clean not only the outside cover of your unit, but also inside the cover, where dust often accumulates.
- You can use a dusting brush or vacuum the alarm with the soft brush attachment.

If you are in a new home or having construction done, make sure that the electricians use a dust cover to keep the alarm from gathering debris.



Clear insects from the alarm. Insects may get caught in your alarm because they are attracted to the sound or even light that the unit may emit. If the alarm is going off with no smoke or visible fire, check for insects on the cover or sensor chamber.



Replace the batteries. One of the most common causes of false smoke alarms is a weak battery. A chirping noise means that the battery is weak, and needs to be replaced. Replace batteries regularly, such as twice a year, to help prevent false alarms and the annoyance of consistent chirping.



Test smoke and heat detectors properly several times a year. Electronic devices can fail at any time, so maintaining and testing them can help ensure proper function. Regular testing can help prevent a fire or damage to your home or family.

- Press the test button on the smoke and heat detector. It may take a few seconds, but you should hear a loud and ear-piercing siren while the button is depressed. If there is no sound or weak sound, replace your batteries.
- Ask a family member to go into the farthest room from the alarm to make sure that anyone in the house can hear it.