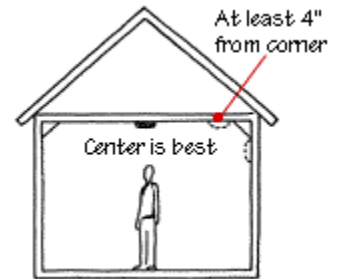


Using Smoke Detectors

By [+Don Vandervort](#), HomeTips

Most smoke detectors are battery powered, but some, particularly those installed during house construction, are wired into a home's electrical system. Most of the ones that run on line voltage (household current) have a battery backup in case a fire knocks out the house's electrical power.

The main problem with battery-powered smoke detectors is that people don't maintain them. All battery-operated detectors are supposed to signal a low battery; newer models won't close if the battery is removed. New lithium battery models last up to 10 years; the entire unit is disposable.

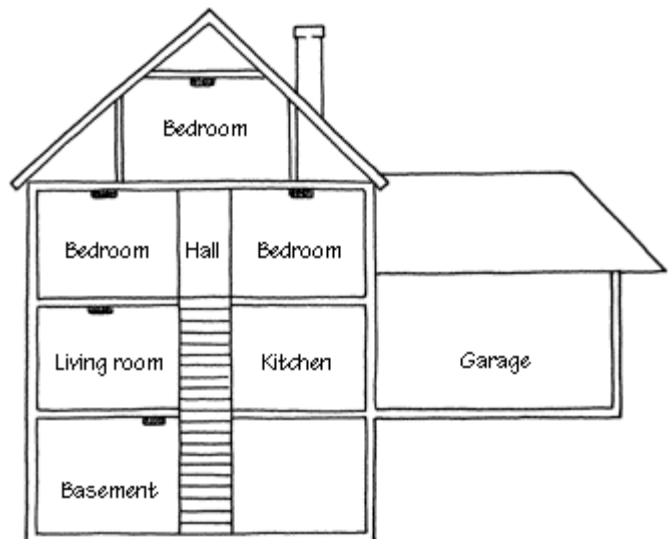


Inner workings of a smoke detector include three main parts: the sensing chamber, a loud horn and a battery (or house voltage power source). A test button lets you know if the battery, sensor, and alarm are working properly. Batteries should be replaced yearly, on a regular schedule.

Smoke detectors should be located on each level of a house and outside each sleeping area (one hallway detector can serve several bedrooms).

Some models sound false alarms when they detect kitchen cooking smoke or high bathroom humidity. It's best not to put them within 20 feet of kitchens, garages, furnaces, hot water heaters, or within 10 feet of a bathroom. Also avoid drafty locations.

A detector should be mounted according to the manufacturer's directions—on the wall or ceiling but not within 4 inches of the corner. The idea is to keep it away from dead air space where smoke might not go.



More about smoke detectors:

- [Smoke Detectors Buying Guide](#)
- [How Many Smoke Alarms Do I Need?](#)
- [Reliable Smoke Detector Manufacturers](#)
- [Smoke & Fire Alarm Features](#)
- [Smoke Detector Types](#)
- [How to Install a Smoke Detector](#)
- [Where to Place Smoke & Fire Alarms](#)
- [How a Smoke Detector Works](#)
- [Smoke & Fire Alarm Sounds & Signals](#)

Source: <http://www.hometips.com>