



Smoke alarms

Plan to survive - upgrade your smoke alarms today

When one goes off, they all go off, giving you more time to escape.

Don't wait until it's too late.

All existing private homes, townhouses, and units require interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms by 1 January 2027. All registered caravans and motorhomes must also be fitted with a photoelectric smoke alarm.

Legislation introduced on 1 January 2017 requires all smoke alarms to comply with Australian standard 3786-2014, and requires pre-existing smoke alarms to be replaced with interconnected smoke alarms.

Smoke Alarms Requirements

Smoke alarms must:

- be photoelectric.
- comply with the Standard. (The body of the alarm must be marked with AS3786-2014.)
- **be hardwired** (e.g. 240v) to the mains power supply with a secondary power source (i.e. non removable 10 year battery) **or; be powered by 10 year non-removable batteries** type photoelectric smoke alarm.

- be interconnected with every other smoke alarm in the dwelling so all activate together.
- must not contain an ionisation sensor.

Avoid buying smoke alarms with this symbol, they are not photoelectric.



Installing Smoke Alarms

Private homes, townhouses and units

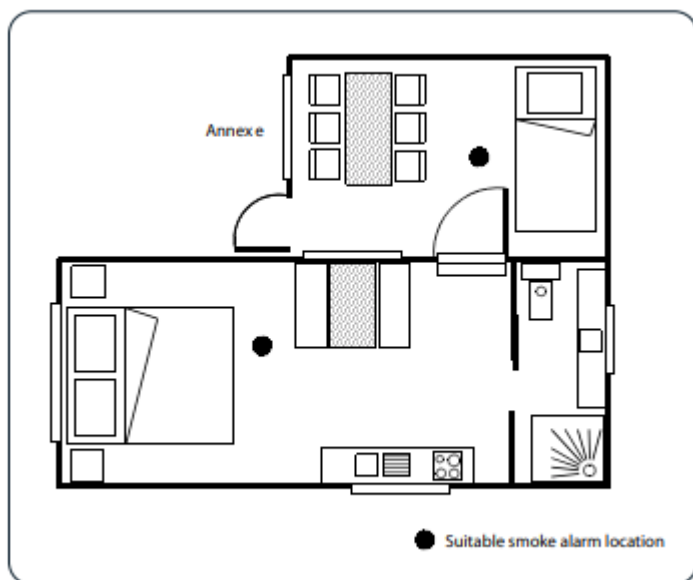
Smoke alarms must be installed:

- on each storey
- in each bedroom
- in hallways that connect bedrooms and the rest of the dwelling
 - if there is no hallway, between the bedroom and other parts of the storey;
- and
 - if there are no bedrooms on a storey, at least one smoke alarm must be installed in the most likely path of travel to exit the dwelling.



Caravans and motorhomes

QFD recommends placing at least one working photoelectric smoke alarm inside the van or motorhome where the bed is, and one in the annexe if you sleep there.



Maintaining Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms should be regularly dusted or vacuumed to make sure they continue working properly.

Accidental alarms go off when there is no fire. They can be a nuisance and become dangerous if homeowners remove the alarm batteries or disable an interconnected system to silence the alarm.

The fire service is not permitted to disable sounding alarms in unattended residences.

Make sure you regularly:

- Test to ensure they are working correctly.
- Vacuum to ensure no dust affects the sensors.

More information

Select which of the following best describes you:

Owner occupier



All existing private homes, townhouses and units require interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms by 1 January 2027. All registered caravans and motorhomes must also be fitted with a photoelectric smoke alarm.

Find out:

- what to do if your alarm has expired
- where alarms are required to be installed
- if you can still use battery operated alarms
- how to prevent accidental alarms.

Landlord

Within 30 days before the start of a tenancy, the lessor/landlord must test and clean each smoke alarm in the home.

Some real estate agents may outsource smoke alarm maintenance to another company with associated fees paid by the landlord. The real estate may request a "certificate of compliance" from these companies as proof of service. This is not a legal requirement but may be part of the real estate agent's internal process.

Property owners/Landlords will receive an infringement notice if they are proven to have not complied with the legislation.

Renter



As a renter or tenant, landlords are responsible for the installation of smoke alarms that comply with legislation.

During a tenancy, the renter must test and clean each smoke alarm in the home, at least once every 12 months.

To test a smoke alarm, press the 'test' button. Cleaning should be done according to the manufacturer's instructions, which is usually vacuuming.

You do not need to be qualified or licensed to clean or test a domestic smoke alarm.

Learn more about maintaining smoke alarms in your rental property.

Contact us (</contact-us>) to make a complaint about non-compliant alarms in your rental.

Building or renovating



As part of a building approval process, requiring a Building Certifier, all new homes and renovations should have the required smoke alarms installed in line with the requirements of the National Construction Code (NCC) formally known as Building Code of

Australia (BCA) and the Building Regulation 2006.

Selling or leasing

All homes or units being sold, will require photoelectric, interconnected smoke alarms.

The obligations on property sellers are triggered by the date the initial sale contract is signed.

When a contract of sale is signed after 31/12/2021, the seller is obligated to upgrade the dwelling to the updated interconnected domestic smoke alarm standard prior to the dwelling being transferred.

The property seller must declare on a "form 24" to the buyer as part of the transfer process that this obligation has been discharged. A "form 24" is a standard compliance statement that should be provided by conveyancer.

Hardwired interconnected smoke alarms installed by a licensed electrician require a Certificate of testing and compliance which is issued in accordance with s227 of the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 for installations of hardwired smoke alarms.

Caravans and motorhomes

From 1 July 2024, all caravans or motorhomes whose Queensland registration is commencing or being transferred must have a photoelectric smoke alarm installed on the ceiling.

From 1 January 2027, all other Queensland registered caravans and motorhomes must have a photoelectric smoke alarm installed.

Queensland Fire Department (QFD) recommends unregistered caravans and motorhomes, as well as mobile homes, have a working smoke alarm installed to give occupants early warning of fire.

Deaf or hard of hearing



Queensland Fire Department provides funding through the Deaf Connect Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme to help Queenslanders who are deaf or hard of hearing to purchase specialty smoke alarms.

To find out if you are eligible contact:

Deaf Connect

Email: smoke.alarms@deafconnect.org.au

(<mailto:smoke.alarms@deafconnect.org.au>)

Phone: 07 3892 8500 (tel:0738928500)

TTY: 07 3892 8501 (tel:0738928501)

FAQs

(</prepare/fire/smoke-alarms/faq>)

Contact us

(</about->

Home Fire Escape Plan

Legislation and resources

(</prepare/fire/smoke->

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