



How to maintain your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be maintained and cleaned according to manufacturer's instructions. Instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire alarm right away.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms with any other type of battery need a new battery at least twice a year. **If that alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.**

You can be fined up to \$500 for causing false alarms and failing to properly maintain your smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.

Save your money, save your home and save your life!



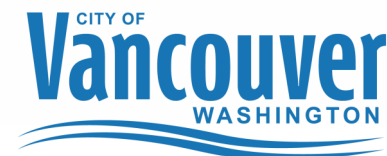
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Residential smoke and carbon monoxide alarms



HOW TO PREVENT FALSE ALARMS





Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives, but only if they are properly installed and maintained. In addition to putting you and your family in danger, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms that are not properly installed or maintained can also generate false alarms.

Why are false alarms a problem?

Put simply, false alarms can cost lives. Not only do they use firefighter's time and delay their attendance to real fires or medical emergencies, they can also cause people to become complacent and not react upon hearing the alarm sound. Fatalities have been caused by people believing that it was "just another false alarm" and failing to evacuate in the event of actual danger.

When a fire or dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide occurs, every second counts and any delay in evacuation can result in tragedy.

What can cause a false alarm?

- Alarm cover or sensor chamber is covered by dust or dirt
- Insects blocking or clogging the alarm's sensor chamber
- An interconnected alarm system is being triggered from another part of the home
- Power interruptions to smoke alarms due to loose wires, etc.
- Other appliances are on the same circuit as the alarms
- When a furnace is turned on for the first time
- Humidity
- The alarm is located near cold air returns
- Smoke alarm installed too close to kitchen, bathroom, laundry or fuel burning appliances



Why does my smoke or carbon monoxide alarm keep chirping?

When your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm makes a chirping noise, it's trying to tell you something is wrong. The worst thing you can do is disable or remove the alarm when it starts chirping. Some common causes of chirping include:

- The battery pull tab is still in the alarm
- The battery drawer is open
- The battery is low and needs to be replaced
- The battery is present, but part of the terminal is obstructed

Sometimes, it may not be the smoke or carbon monoxide alarm that is chirping. Other appliances and electronics in your home may make similar noises when their batteries need to be replaced.

FACT: In 2016, the Vancouver Fire Department received more than 1,700 false alarms.