



If you're like most of us, you have a smoke detector in your home, possibly more than one. Like insurance, smoke detectors provide peace of mind for you and your family. But, do you routinely test your smoke detectors, or are they just gathering dust? Has the battery died, or have you disconnected the battery because smoke from the toaster always sets off the alarm? If that's the case, your smoke detector will be useless if a fire strikes your home.

Working smoke detectors double your chances of surviving a fire, according to the United States Fire Administration. But, like any other home appliance, they must be properly maintained if they are to stand guard over your family.

Take a minute **today** to make sure your smoke detector works.

- Check your smoke detector every month by pushing the test button or lighting a candle and fanning the smoke into the unit.
- Replace the battery every year. Pick a day—your birthday, perhaps—and mark your calendar.
- Replace the bulb (if the detector is a photoelectric unit) every three years.
- Repair or replace damaged detectors as soon as possible.
- Double-check the unit if you've been away from home for an extended period of time.

Remember, a **working** smoke detector will usually give you at least three minutes to evacuate your home. One that isn't working won't give you any warning, and could cost you your life, and the lives of your loved ones.



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