

## **Installing and Maintaining Smoke Alarms**

### **Installing smoke alarms**

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.
- Smoke alarms installed in the basement should be installed on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet (3 meters) from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). Wall-mounted alarms should be installed not more than 12 inches away from the ceiling (to the top of the alarm).
- If a room has a pitched (slanted) ceiling, mount the unit near the ceiling's highest point, 4 to 12 inches away from the wall.
- If the room has an A-frame ceiling, mount the unit at least 4 to 12 inches away from the peak
- Wall-mounted smoke alarms should be installed so that the top of the alarm is not more than 12 inches from the ceiling.
- Install basement smoke alarms close to the bottom of the stairs. Don't install an alarm at the top of basement stairs; dead air trapped near the closed door could prevent smoke from reaching the unit.
- Avoid placing alarms in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, attics, near recessed ceiling areas, ceiling fans, furnaces, or furnace vents, dusty areas, or any area where the temperature drops below 40°F (4.5°C) or rises above 110°F (43°C).
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers, or other decorations could keep the alarms from working.

### **Testing smoke alarms**

- Smoke alarms should be maintained according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.