



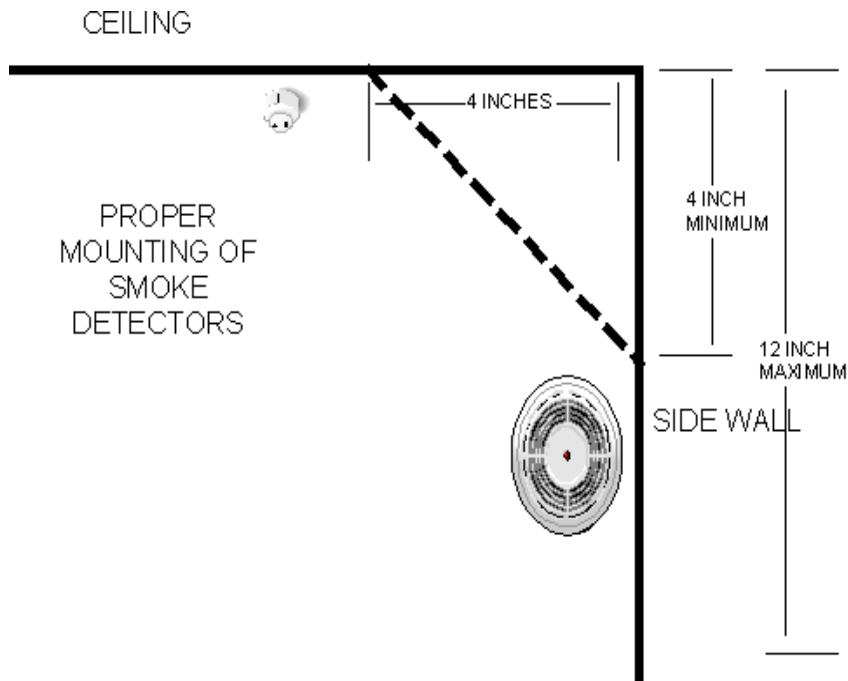
Types of Smoke Detectors



What is a Smoke Detector? A device used in homes and businesses that warns the occupants that there is smoke and/or fire present. It does so by emitting a loud buzz or beep after smoke enters the device.

There are two different types of smoke detectors, ionization detectors and photoelectric detectors. Ionization detectors work with a very tiny radioactive cell and have been reported to respond slightly faster to open, flaming fires. Photoelectric detectors work with a small photocell and have been reported to respond slightly faster to smoldering fires. Both detector types are subject to and must pass the same test fires for listing by a testing laboratory. Since residential homes experience both flaming and smoldering fires, an extra margin of safety might be achieved if a home is equipped with one detector of each type.

Smoke detectors should be placed outside each sleeping area and on each level of a home. Place smoke detectors on the ceiling at least 4 inches from a wall; or on the side wall, 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling to the top of the detector. Remember to test monthly and replace the battery in battery-type detectors at least once a year. If a detector makes a chirping noise, it usually is an indication that the battery is low and needs replacing. Don't let dust accumulate on your detector.



What is a CO Detector or Carbon Monoxide Detector?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and deadly gas. Fuel-burning (gas, not electric) appliances such as furnaces, water heaters and stoves may require yearly maintenance. CO detectors will sound an alarm before dangerous levels of CO accumulate from fuel-burning appliances. CO detectors, like smoke detectors, should be placed outside sleeping areas. Avoid placing a CO detector directly on top of or directly across from fuel-burning appliances.

Be aware that CO poisoning may be the cause of flu-like symptoms such as headaches, tightness of chest, dizziness, fatigue, confusion and breathing difficulties. Because CO poisoning often causes a victim's blood pressure to rise, the victim's skin may take on a pink or red cast. Don't leave vehicles running in an enclosed garage.

Know how to respond to a CO detector alarm. If your alarm sounds, immediately open windows and doors for ventilation. If anyone in the home is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, call 9-1-1 for emergency help. Because you have provided ventilation, the CO buildup may have dissipated by the time help responds and your problem may be temporarily solved. Have appliances checked until you have clearly identified the source of the problem.