

## Smoke alarms

---

Property owners must install smoke alarms in all domestic dwellings.

Find out more on the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services website.

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services recommends:

- all residential accommodation be fitted with photoelectric type smoke alarms
- smoke alarms either hardwired or powered by a 10year lithium battery
- smoke alarms located
  - on each level of living space
  - outside each bedroom and
  - in every bedroom
- all smoke alarms should be interconnected
- every home should have a practised escape plan.

### Property owners/managers must:

- install smoke alarms complying with Australian Standard 3786-1993 outside sleeping areas and one on each level of the dwelling
- replace smoke alarms before the end of their service life (smoke alarms are required to have a recommended service life of at least 10 years under normal conditions of use)
- test and clean smoke alarms and replace any flat or nearly flat batteries within 30 days of the start or renewal of a tenancy.

Property owners/managers must not remove a smoke alarm, remove the battery (other than to replace it) or do anything to reduce the effectiveness of the alarm (e.g. paint it).

### Tenants must:

- test and clean (by vacuuming or dusting) smoke alarms at least once every 12 months
- replace any flat or nearly flat batteries
- advise the property manager/owner if there is any issue with the alarm (apart from batteries)
- allow the property owner/manager right of entry to install smoke alarms.

The tenant must not remove a smoke alarm, remove the battery (other than to replace it) or do anything to reduce the effectiveness of the alarm (e.g. paint it).

### Penalties apply to both tenants and property manager/owners for not complying with these requirements.

**Smoke alarms save lives.** Reports indicate that the risk of death in a house fire is reduced by more than half if a properly maintained smoke alarm is installed.