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Smoke alarm buyers guide

How many do I need to buy?

In addition to the minimum requirement of one smoke alarm per level, Fire & Rescue NSW recommends installing smoke alarms in all bedrooms and living spaces (including hallways and stairways) and even the garage.

NSW legislation requires all residents to have one working smoke alarm installed on each level of their home. This includes owner occupied, rental properties, relocatable homes, caravans and campervans or any other residential building where people sleep.

[View the smoke alarm installation guide for further information.](#)

Are there approved smoke alarms?

All smoke alarms installed in residential accommodation in NSW must meet the requirements of Australian Standard AS 3786.

Hard-wired or battery operated?

Fire & Rescue NSW recommends wherever possible, hard-wired and interconnected smoke alarms are installed.

If your alarms cannot be hard-wired, FRNSW recommends smoke alarms that rely on 10-year lithium batteries. Inbuilt 10-year lithium batteries last as long as the smoke alarm so you don't need to worry about replacing them every year – you simply replace the entire smoke alarm unit once every 10 years.

Hard-wired smoke alarm

A hard-wired smoke alarm consists of a 240-volt smoke alarm connected to a home's electrical system with a battery back-up power supply.

Battery operated smoke alarm

Most smoke alarms come with a battery but not all batteries are the same:

- **10 year lithium batteries:** These batteries are recommended and last as long as the smoke alarm.
- **Lead or alkaline batteries:** Need to be replaced yearly.

Where can I buy them?

Available at most major supermarkets and hardware stores across NSW.



Strobe light and vibrating pad alarms

Strobe light and vibrating pad smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information contact the Deaf Society of NSW on 02 8833 3600 or visit: https://deafsocietynsw.org.au/equipment/page/smoke_alarms