

SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Smoke Alarm Information and Testing

The Manitoba Fire Code requires all residential properties to be equipped with a smoke alarm.

Smoke alarms are typically located in the hallway outside of the bedroom(s). This location is selected to provide sleeping occupants with early warning should there be a fire. When the hallway outside of the bedroom(s) is close to the washroom or kitchen the smoke alarm may be activated by steam or cooking odors. In homes where the bedroom(s) is located directly off the kitchen or bathroom a smoke alarm is typically moved into each bedroom. In homes where bedrooms are remote from one another a smoke alarm is required outside of each bedroom. The smoke alarm may be mounted on the ceiling or on the wall.

Smoke Alarm vs Smoke Detector

A smoke alarm is not to be confused with a smoke detector. A smoke detector is a device that detects smoke as part of a fire alarm system. It does not have a built in an audible alarm. A smoke alarm is a device equipped with a detector and an audible alarm. It can be battery powered or hard wired. Hard wired smoke alarms may be interconnected so that when one activates they all alarm. Some hard wired smoke alarms may have a disposable battery for a backup power supply.

Removable Battery Powered

Removable Battery powered smoke alarms should only be found in owner occupied dwellings. These smoke alarms are powered by removable batteries. The battery compartment may be located on the front or back of the unit.

Test by pushing the Test button on the cover and hold it for a minimum of 5 seconds (or until the alarm sounds). This will sound the alarm if all the electronic circuitry, horn and battery are working. If the alarm does not sound, the unit has a defective battery or some other failure.

Hard Wired Smoke Alarm

Hard wired smoke alarms are powered by a dedicated household circuit. They may or may not have a battery for backup power. The battery compartment is typically located on the front of the unit. Many units are also equipped with a power light that remains illuminated when there is power to the smoke alarm.

Test by pushing the Test button on the cover and hold it for a minimum of 5 seconds (or until the alarm sounds). This will sound the alarm if all the electronic circuitry, horn and battery are working.

Note: hard wired alarms are sometimes interconnected. Activation of the test feature on one unit may activate the alarm in all the interconnected devices simultaneously.

Ten Year Battery Powered Tamper Resistant Smoke Alarms

These alarms are required in all residential rental units in the City of Winnipeg that are not equipped with a hard wired smoke alarm. They are powered by a 10 year lithium ion battery that cannot be removed and the cover cannot be opened. The advantage of these alarms is they cannot be disabled by the tenant and left in place.

Test by pushing the Test button on the cover and hold it for a minimum of 5 seconds (or until the alarm sounds). This will sound the alarm if all the electronic circuitry, horn and battery are working. If the alarm does not sound, the unit has a defective battery or some other failure.

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Silence / Hush Feature

All types of smoke alarms may come equipped with a Silence/ Hush feature though it is most commonly found on the Ten Year Lithium Ion Battery Powered units. This is a second button on the alarm face that when depressed will cause the alarm to “time out” for a set period of time. When the time expires the smoke alarm automatically reactivates and continues to function normally. The purpose of the Hush feature is to allow the resident to silence the alarm temporarily in the event of accidental activation by steam or cooking fumes. Once depressed the alarm silences and allows the homeowner time to clear the atmosphere of whatever caused the alarm to activate. The homeowner need not remember to turn the alarm back on as it does so automatically.

When testing a smoke alarm, make sure you are depressing the TEST button and not the HUSH button. The hush button is frequently located immediately beside the test button.

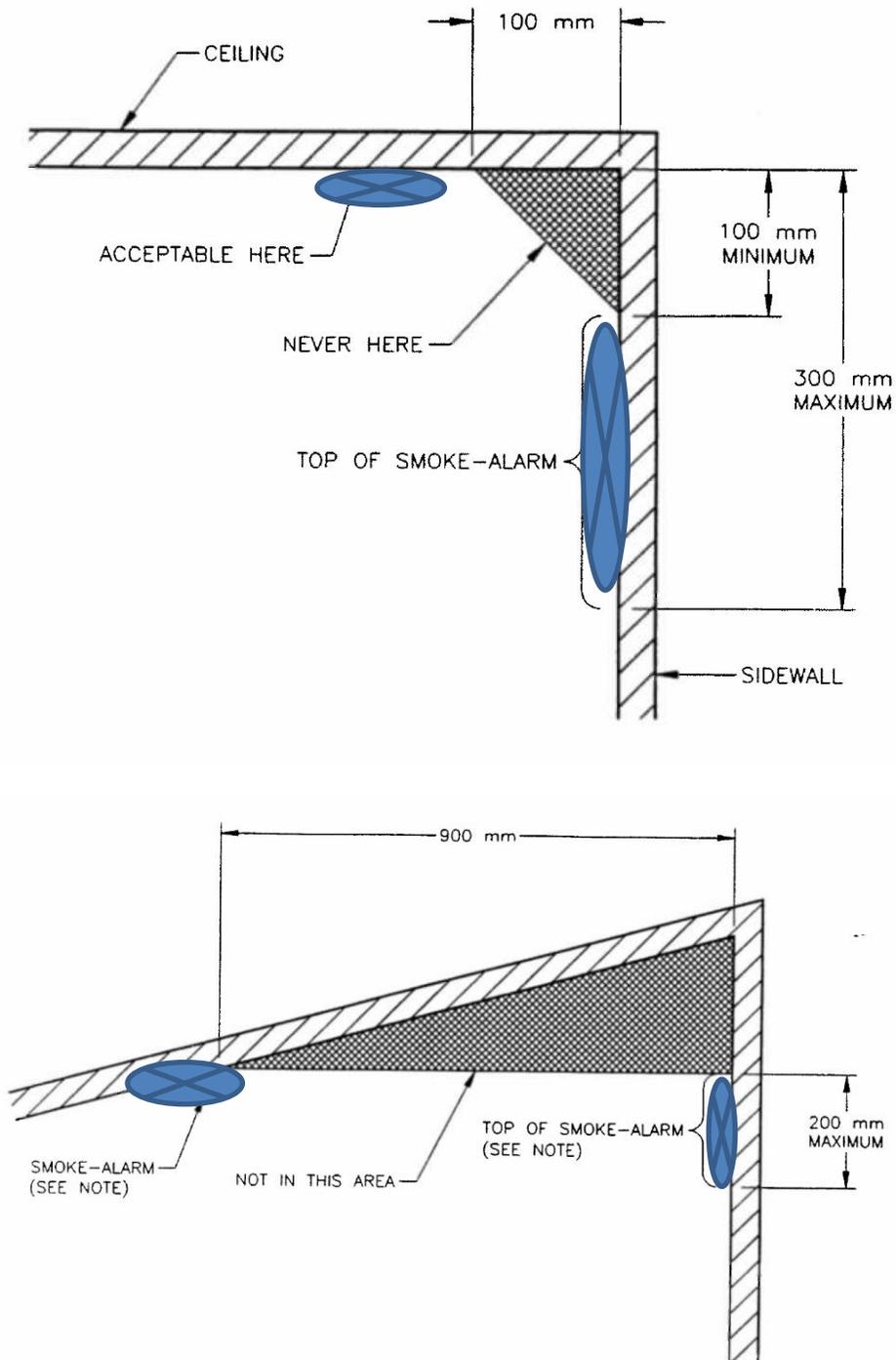
Common Problems

The most common problem encountered is that the alarm does not activate when the test button is depressed for 5 seconds. If this occurs, release the test button for 5 seconds then try again. If the alarm does not activate then report the unit as not functioning.

Another common problem is the smoke alarm “chirps”. When a smoke alarm has a low battery the audible signal will chirp every 40 to 45 seconds. Once the battery is drained the unit will cease to chirp. Removable battery powered smoke alarms that chirp require replacement batteries. Smoke alarms that are equipped with 10 year lithium ion batteries require replacement of the smoke alarm if it chirps. Hardwired smoke alarms equipped with a battery for backup power will chirp if the battery is low on power.

Occasionally smoke alarms will be found placed on a shelf or piece of furniture. The alarm cannot function as designed in this location. It has to be mounted in its bracket on the ceiling or wall to provide adequate protection. Many smoke alarms will not function unless they are mounted on the wall bracket provided with the unit when purchased. Smoke alarms not properly mounted to the wall or ceiling are to be considered not functioning.

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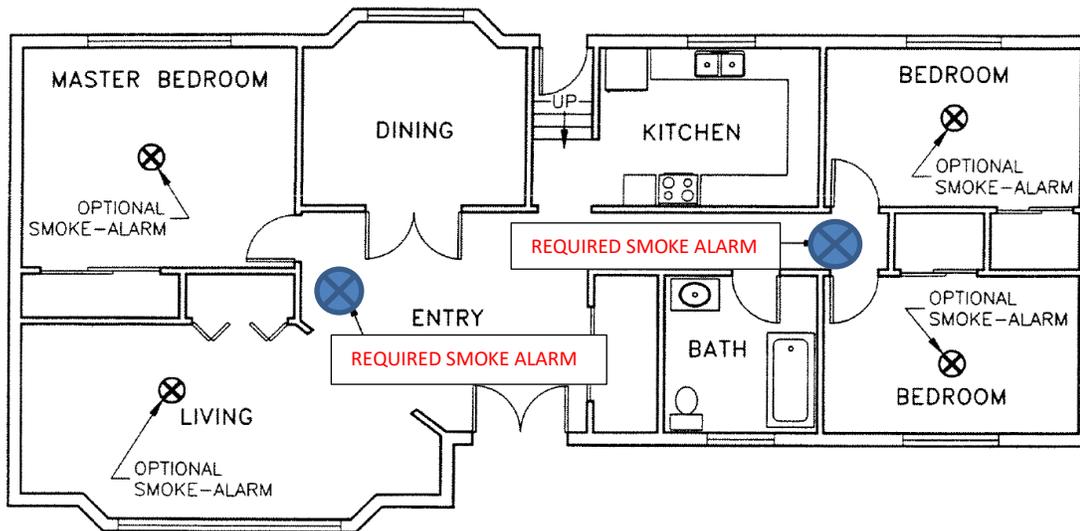
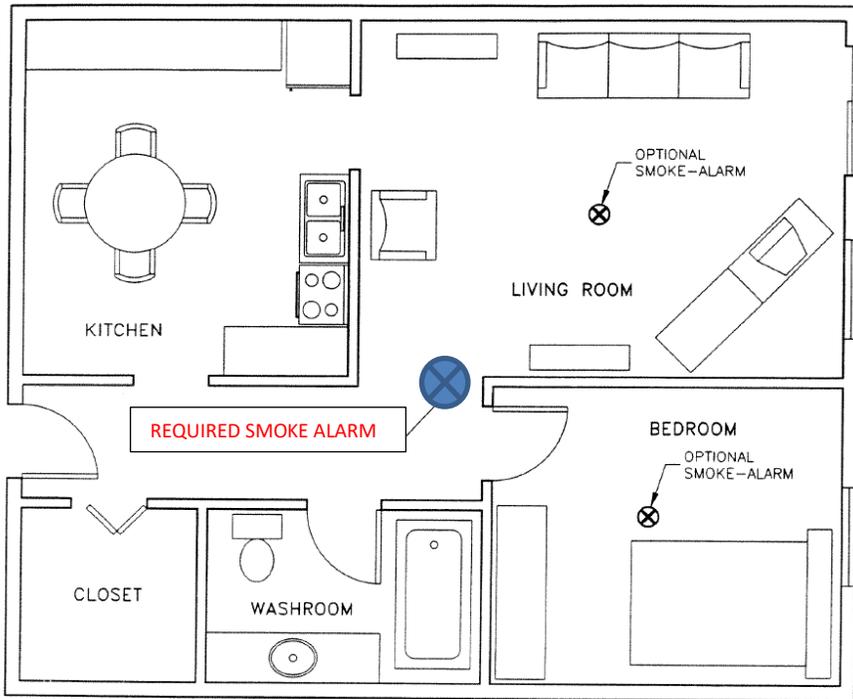


NOTE: Smoke alarms may be located either on the ceiling or on the wall.

Smoke alarms should be installed to serve the sleeping areas and not be installed in a kitchen or too close to a bathroom if at all possible.

NOTE: 10 Year lithium smoke alarms are required to be installed in the bracket provided in order to activate the smoke alarm. Please install the smoke alarm in the bracket provided.

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Smoke alarms should be installed to serve the sleeping areas and not be installed in a kitchen or too close to a bathroom if at all possible. For separated sleeping areas, multiple smoke alarms should be used.