

# Smoke Alarms Information

Strictly Confidential



## Smoke Alarms – SA Legislation

*For your information only, sourced from the Metropolitan Fire Service and Planning SA.*

It is a requirement of the Development Act 1993 that all South Australian homes are fitted with a working smoke alarm. This means that you, as a homeowner or residential landlord, are responsible for ensuring a working smoke alarm is installed in your property. Fines can apply if alarms are not installed.

### What type of smoke alarm do I need?

The type of smoke alarm you need depends on the age of your home and when you purchased it:

- If you owned your home or the residential rental property before 1 February 1998, you are required to fit a replaceable battery powered smoke alarm.
- If you purchased your home or residential rental property on or after 1 February 1998, your smoke alarm must be fitted within 6 months of date of purchase of the property and you are required to fit a:
  - 240 volt, mains powered smoke alarm OR
  - a 10 year life, non-replaceable, non-removable, permanently connected battery powered smoke alarm.
- If your home or the residential rental property was built on or after 1 January 1995, you are required to fit a 240 volt mains powered smoke alarm.

### Types of Smoke Alarms

**Ionisation Smoke Alarms** detect small diameter smoke particles, the invisible products of combustion, and are most effective in the case of flaming fires. They are **not** suitable for locations affected by cooking, combustion heating appliances or open fires.

**Photo-Electric Smoke Alarms** detect larger smoke particles, the visible products of combustion, and are most effective in the case of smouldering fires. They are suitable for installation near kitchens or in areas containing combustion heaters or open fires.

**Best Protection** Recent research indicates that photo-electric alarms provide the best detection across a range of fires.

For homes which already have ionisation alarms, we recommend that they be supplemented with additional, interconnected photo-electric alarms. When existing ionisation alarms reach 10 years of age, they should be replaced with photo-electric alarms.

**The MFS recommends that the best protection is provided by photo-electric smoke alarms which are hard-wired to the 240 volt power supply and interconnected to give the earliest warning possible.**

### Further Information

Planning SA  
Metropolitan Fire Service  
Country Fire Service  
Local Council  
Hearing Solutions

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