

Domestic Smoke Alarms for Dwellings

Have you got one?

All new houses, sleepouts and alterations to all existing houses are required to have interconnected smoke alarms installed in accordance with NZS 4514.

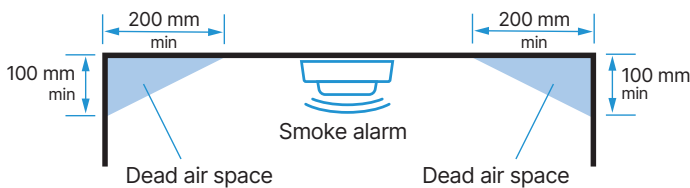
Where should you put smoke alarms in your house?

On or near the ceiling:

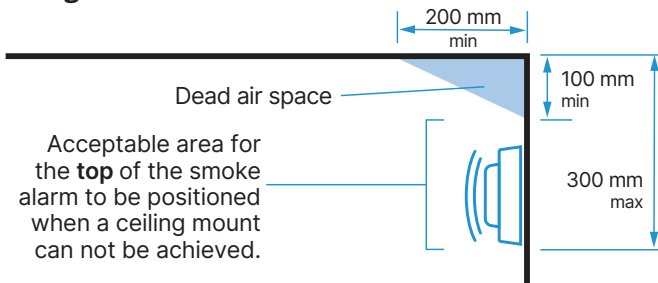
- In all bedrooms, living spaces, hallways and landings within the building
- In the kitchen – when it is separated from living space and hallways by doors (to be a heat alarm)
- On each level of multi-level dwellings.

In locations where smoke alarms are required they shall be within 10m of each other in any direction, and the distance from any wall to a smoke alarm shall not exceed 5m.

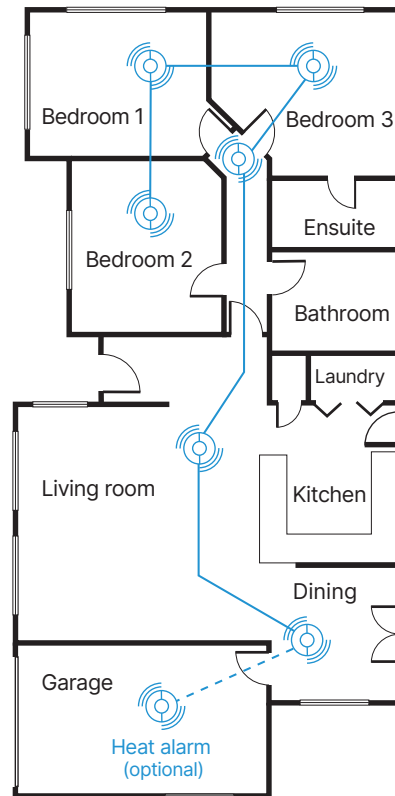
Ceiling mount with exposed airflow



Ceiling mount not available



See NZS 4514 for information on where alarms should not be located.



Summary of requirements

Domestic smoke alarms are to be interconnected and may be battery powered or hard wired. Hard wired via the main power supply or battery powered by a long life (minimum 10 years), non removable, sealed battery. They must be provided with a test facility that may be located on the smoke alarm and also a hush function to temporarily silence the audible alarm signal in the event of nuisance activation.

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Domestic smoke alarms must be listed or approved by a recognised authority as complying with at least one of the following: UL 217, CAN/ULC S531, AS 3786, ISO 12239, or BS EN 14604.

Heat alarms and heat detectors

Heat alarms provide an additional method of fire detection in locations where detection is advisable, yet a smoke alarm would cause an unacceptable level of nuisance alarms. Examples may include enclosed laundries or kitchens or a garage.

Heat alarms are not a substitute for smoke alarms as they are not sensitive to smoke. Heat alarms should be interconnected to any smoke alarms so the alarm can be heard throughout the building.

Recommended maintenance procedures

Smoke alarms require regular maintenance to ensure their successful operation in the event of a fire.

Smoke alarms shall be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and will require cleaning with a soft-brushed vacuum cleaner.

Each smoke alarm should be tested at least once a month by activating the "test" function.

The tested smoke alarm and all the smoke and heat alarms interconnected with it should make a sound.

Formal stuff

Each household unit shall be provided with a minimum of Type 1 domestic smoke alarm system in compliance with NZS 4514 which is required in F7/AS1 and C/AS1.

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.