

## Only working smoke alarms save lives

A fact sheet to assist tenants in the event of a beeping or faulty alarm.

### Some tenant tips.

- Smoke alarms make a warning 'beep' or 'chirp' when there is a fault or when the battery is low. Here are some tips.
- The chirp may indicate the smoke alarm has become contaminated. Vacuum your smoke alarm with a soft brush attachment around the smoke alarm vents to remove any build-up of dust and cobwebs.
- Use a surface insect spray around the smoke alarm to prevent insects from nesting inside it. Ensure you cover the smoke alarm while you spray to ensure you do not spray inside the smoke alarm.
- Never paint over or cover your smoke alarms.
- You can hush a beeping alarm by holding down the hush button for 3 seconds. This will generally silence the alarm for 10 minutes.
- A licenced electrical contractor is required to disconnect or install mains powered smoke alarms.
- Mains powered smoke alarms may give a low battery warning after periods of extended mains power outage. You should be aware of this once the mains power is restored.
- After a technician has replaced a battery, the alarm may continue intermittently beeping for up to 15 minutes. This is normal.
- If after changing the battery the smoke alarm continues to sound a warning 'beep' or 'chirp', the smoke alarm may be faulty and require replacement, so please contact your Property Manager

### Did you know...

We understand that beeping smoke alarms can drive you crazy. As annoying as a beeping smoke alarm can be, the most common cause is a low battery. It doesn't matter if the alarm runs entirely on batteries or is hardwired and has a battery backup—either way, you're going to hear chirping when the battery goes dead.



### How do I test a Smoke Alarm?

In general, most battery-powered and hardwired smoke alarms can be tested in the following way:

- **Step 1.** Smoke alarms have a high-pitched alarm that may frighten small children, so you'll want to let everyone know you plan to test the alarms to help avoid scaring anyone.
- **Step 2.** Press and hold the test button on the smoke alarm. It can take a few seconds to begin, but a loud, ear-piercing siren should emanate. If the sound is weak or non-existent, replace your batteries.



Be careful on a ladder

For more information visit [www.1300smokealarms.com.au](http://www.1300smokealarms.com.au) or contact 1300 766 532

## Only working smoke alarms save lives

A fact sheet to assist tenants in the event of a beeping or faulty alarm.

### Possible causes if still beeping...

- If the smoke alarm is beeping irregularly, with no discernible pattern, it's probably not the battery, it could be a spider or insects. If possible, remove the cover and blow out any cobwebs that has gathered there.
- Another common cause of a smoke alarm beeping is a sharp variation in temperature and/or humidity. If the smoke alarm sits in an unconditioned part of your home like the top floor, it may be that in the winter, as the temperatures drops, the battery could become too cold to reliably deliver an electrical charge.
- Yet another possible explanation could be ash, pollen, or dust that interrupts a small beam of light housed within the device, then even something as innocuous as an open window could be to blame. Consider cleaning the unit or close the closest window.
- Sometimes, a smoke alarm beeps so loudly that even if the sound seems to be coming from one spot, it may really be emanating from somewhere else in the home. Please ensure you are looking at the correct smoke alarm.
- If your hardwired smoke alarm is beeping and you have tried everything, you could try resetting the power which may solve the problem by resetting the device. If the alarm sounds a few times and then goes silent, that means it's back to working order.
- Contact your Property Manager if the beeping continues.



### In the event of a fire

- Crawl low under smoke.
- Assist or alert any people in danger, but only if it is safe to do so.
- Go to your safe meeting place, such as your letter box.
- Call 000 (triple zero).
- Wait for firefighters to arrive.
- Do not re-enter a burning house under, any circumstances.

**Only working  
smoke alarms  
save lives.**

For more information visit [www.1300smokealarms.com.au](http://www.1300smokealarms.com.au) or contact 1300 766 532