

## Installation tips

- Check the outside package to ensure a testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM), has approved the smoke detector.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions before installing and look for the recommended placement for your alarm.
- In general, mount smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on the wall. Keep them at least 4 inches away from corners.
- If mounting on a wall, the bottom of the detector should be no more than 12 inches from the ceiling.



**Assemblyman  
John Mikulin**

Dear Friend,

Smoke detectors provide a vital early warning of a fire in your home. That's why all New York State homes must have smoke detectors.

This brochure gives an overview of New York State home smoke detector law, and guidelines for properly installing and maintaining smoke detectors in your home. I hope you find it helpful.

Remember, having a smoke detector in your home is not just the law – it might save your life. Please contact my office if I can assist you further with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

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Member of Assembly

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# Smoke detectors save lives



Important information about home  
smoke detector law, courtesy of

**Assemblyman  
John Mikulin**

# New York State Home Smoke Detector Law

## What does the law require?

- ➔ Owners of one- and two-family residences must install and maintain a smoke detector with an audible alarm in each sleeping area.
- ➔ All smoke detectors sold in this state must be powered by a sealed, non-removable battery with a minimum battery life of 10 years, or be hardwired to the building.
- ➔ Any new or replacement smoke alarms installed in your home or apartment must be 10-year battery powered or hardwired.
- ➔ Homeowners and landlords must upgrade their smoke alarms before selling or renting homes and apartments in New York State.

Your community may have stricter laws that supersede state requirements. Contact your local code enforcement officer to find out more.

## How many smoke detectors do I need?

Your need depends on the number and location of sleeping areas in your home. The law only specifies that smoke detectors be installed so they can be clearly heard in each bedroom, or other rooms used for sleeping, with intervening doors closed.

In homes with sleeping areas on different floors, a smoke detector should be on each floor adjacent to the sleeping quarters.

If you need assistance in selecting locations or want advice on the proper installation of these devices, contact your local fire department or building inspector.

## How is the law enforced?

Financial incentives and educational programs are used to encourage compliance, and homeowners or landlords who fail to comply with the law can face significant daily fines or even jail time.

- ➔ If an owner fails to comply with an order to adhere to the uniform fire prevention and building code, including failing to comply with an order to install smoke detectors, the law allows a fine of no more than \$1,000 per day of violation or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, for the first 180 days.
- ➔ For the next 180 days, if the violation persists, the law allows a minimum fine of \$25 per day of violation, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both. If the violation persists for more than 360 days, the law allows a minimum fine of \$50 per day of violation, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.



*This brochure offers a general overview of information to help you better understand the topic. There may be new or changed legislation since this brochure's publication date. It is not a substitute for the text of the law or legal advice.*



## Remember...

**only working smoke detectors can save lives.**

- ✓ **TEST** your smoke detectors at least once a month. Push the test button.
- ✓ **CLEAN** your detectors at least once a year to remove dust.
- ✓ **REPLACE** 10-year battery-operated smoke detectors after 10 years.

