

INSTALL A SMOKE/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

Skill Level: BEGINNER These how-to's are suitable for people who are new to DIY and who have a basic knowledge of tools. If you've painted a room or re-potted a plant, you can probably complete one of these projects by yourself in a few hours or less.

✓ MATERIALS

- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector-Alarm
- Pencil
- Drill and Bits
- Hammer
- Screwdrivers (Slotted/Standard and Cross-head/Phillips)
- Safety Glasses

You can help protect your home and family against fire and carbon monoxide with a simple detection device that is easy to install. Installing a smoke/carbon monoxide detector-alarm will take less than an hour and, with just a little maintenance, help protect your most important things for many years.

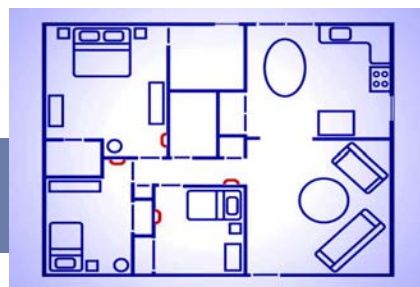
PREPARATION

Once a fire starts, it can grow and spread quickly, filling the house with smoke. Carbon monoxide, however, can pose a threat without you even knowing it. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas that can come from faulty combustion in appliances like furnaces and water heaters. CO is very dangerous because it replaces the oxygen in the air, making it difficult to breathe.

To keep your home safe, install a combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector-alarm on every level of your house. Following are some guidelines from home safety professionals:

- Battery-powered detector-alarms are most popular since they are the easiest to install. Some units can be wired into the house's electrical system; however, they should have a battery backup in case the electricity goes off.
- Install the alarm(s) within 15 feet of sleeping areas to make sure everyone can hear the alarm, even if their door is closed.

For better protection, install alarms within each bedroom and at least one on each level of your home.



- Avoid installing alarms directly near furnaces or other combustible appliances.
- For additional details and recommendations, carefully read and follow the detector-alarm manufacturer's instructions.
- **TIP:** Some combination smoke/CO alarms feature voice notification that will tell you if the threat is fire or carbon monoxide.

IMPORTANT

Before you install a smoke and/or CO detector, discuss the job with a Lowe's associate to ensure that you select the appropriate model and number of units for your application. If you need assistance installing the devices, call a professional for help.

INSTALLING THE DETECTOR-ALARM

- 01** Open the back of the detector-alarm unit and install the batteries, following the diagram on the bottom of the battery well.

■ **TIP:** Select quality batteries for your unit. Use a permanent marker to write the installation date on the batteries. Change the batteries at least once every six months.



- 02** Position the unit on the ceiling or an inside wall.

- 03** Using the back of the unit as a template, mark the center of the holes with a pencil.



- 04** Drill a hole through each of the pencil marks.

- 05** Install anchors in the holes with a hammer. Anchors may not be necessary if the screw holes are into a ceiling rafter or wall stud.

- 06** Insert two screws and tighten until the back plate is secure.



- 07** Attach the detector-alarm unit to the back plate. Most units clip into place.

- 08** Press the TEST button to verify that it operates and can be heard easily.



- 09** Test the unit once a week following the manufacturer's instructions.

PLANNING EVACUATION

You should have an evacuation plan for your family so that everyone knows what to do if the alarm goes off. Identify a single gathering point outside the home. Practice evacuation periodically, determining the fastest and safest paths to your gathering point. If the smoke/carbon monoxide detector-alarm does go off:

01 Leave your home immediately, making sure that all family members are out.

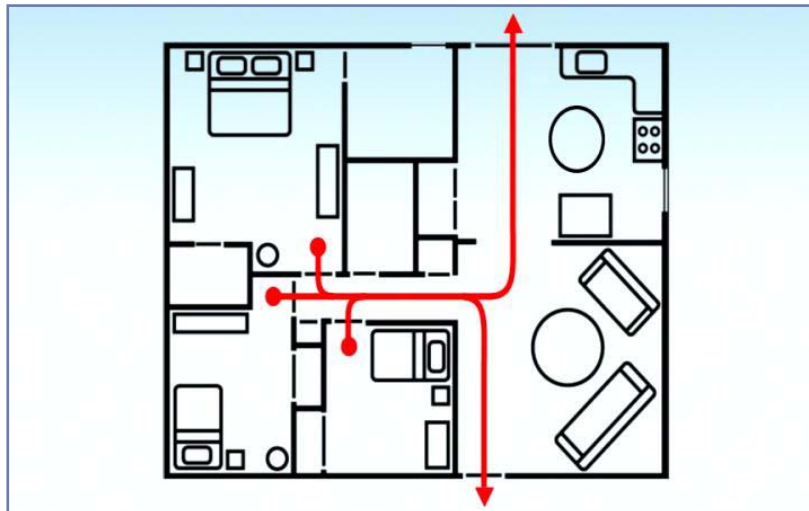
- **CAUTION:** Before opening any door, carefully touch it to see if it is hot. If so, do not open the door! Use an alternate escape route.

02 Call 9-1-1 to report the problem from a safe location.

03 Stay out of the house until firemen or technicians tell you it is safe to return.

04 If the problem is carbon monoxide, contact a trained technician to check appliances like the water heater or furnace.

- **TIP:** For additional help on protecting your home and possessions against fire, visit the U.S. Fire Administration website at usfa.dhs.gov.



A smoke/CO detector-alarm can help protect your family and home. Be sure to check out the many other home improvement and safety projects, including *Tips for Buying and Using a Fire Extinguisher*, at Lowes.com/Videos.

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