



# How to Install a Smoke or Carbon Monoxide Alarm

GENERIC INSTRUCTIONS

**MySafe:LA**

Produced in collaboration with the **Los Angeles Fire Department**

These instructions are for battery powered smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Installation of an alarm is easy, and should only take a few minutes. These instructions are generic - make certain you check the packaging of any alarm you acquire for specific instructions.

**NOTE: Do NOT** attach a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm to the ceiling with tape or glue. The alarm will not function if it has fallen from the ceiling.

## STEP 1

Open the back of the Smoke/carbon monoxide alarm and install the batteries. Usually, there is a diagram on the bottom of the battery well for your reference. Press the TEST button to ensure the alarm is working.



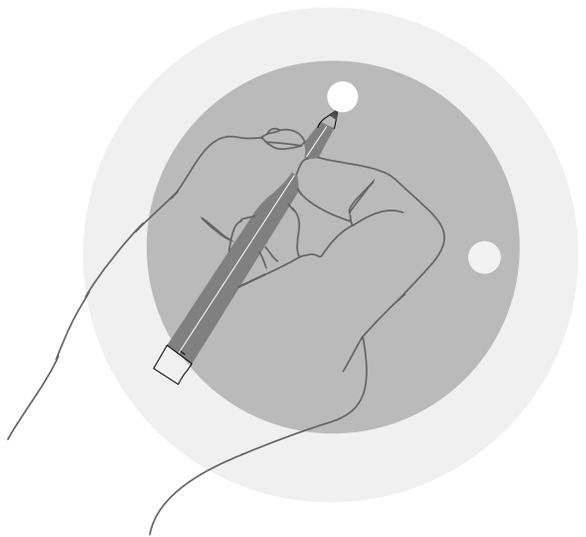
## STEP 2

Position the unit on the ceiling or an inside wall, depending on the instructions provided with the alarm. If you're not certain, a smoke and combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarm is typically installed on a ceiling. A carbon monoxide alarm is typically installed on a wall about five feet above the floor.



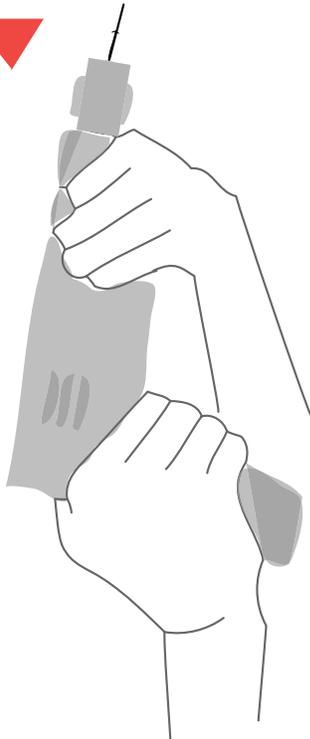
### STEP 3

Using the back of the Smoke/carbon monoxide alarm as a template, mark the center of the fixture holes with a pencil.



### STEP 4

Drill a hole through each of the pencil marks. An electric drill is fast, but any drill will do - make certain to use the proper drill bit size.



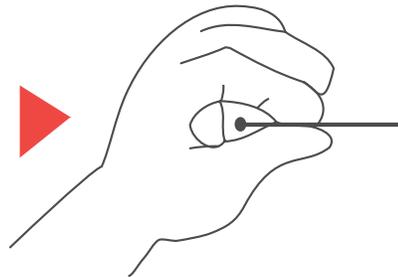
### STEP 5

If you can tighten screws into a ceiling rafter or wall stud, the next step is easy. However, if there is no reinforcement, install "wall anchors" in the holes with a hammer.



### STEP 6

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



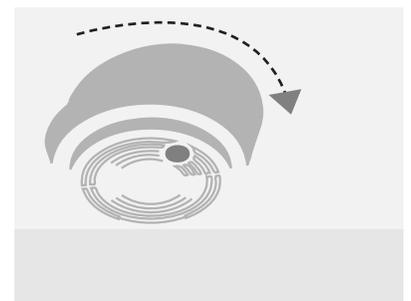
### STEP 8

Press the TEST button (again!) to verify that it operates and can be heard easily.



### STEP 7

Attach the Smoke/carbon monoxide alarm to the back plate. Most units rotate and "snap" into place.



### STEP 9

Test the unit once a month - and replace the batteries when you change the clocks for daylight savings and daylight standard time.

