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 7
Attach the Smoke/carbon monoxide alarm to the back plate. Most units rotate and “snap” into place.

STEP 8
Press the TEST button (again!) to verify that it operates and can be heard easily.

STEP 9
Test the unit once a month - and replace the batteries when you change the clocks for daylight savings and daylight standard time.