

Smoke Alarms

Practical skills

Which type, where to put them, and how often to test.

Different sensors suit different locations.

Type	Best at	Place
Ionisation	Fast, flaming fires	Away from kitchens
Optical / photoelectric	Smouldering fires	Hallways, landings, bedrooms
Heat alarm	Heat, not smoke	Kitchens, garages
Combined	Both smoke types	General use
CO alarm	Carbon monoxide	Rooms with fuel appliances

One per floor, on the ceiling, near the centre. Not in kitchens or bathrooms — use a heat alarm there instead.