



VICTORIA SMOKE ALARM LEGISLATION & REQUIREMENTS

LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

All smoke alarms must comply with Australian Standard AS 3786-2014, which mandates photoelectric technology.

KEY DATES

BEFORE 1 AUG 1997

All new dwellings and those undergoing substantial renovations must install photoelectric, interconnected smoke alarms.

ON/AFTER 1 AUG 1997

Hardwired to mains power (240V) alarms with backup battery required

ON/AFTER 1 MAY 2014 (NEW OR SUBSTANTIAL RENO):

If more than one alarm is required, they must be interconnected.

SMOKE ALARM TYPES AND POWER SOURCES

Alarm Type: Photoelectric only (ionisation sensors are prohibited).

Power source options:

- > Hardwired to mains power (240V) with backup battery (mandatory for post-1 Aug 1997 builds), or
- > 10-year non-removable battery for eligible older dwellings.

Replace smoke alarms every 10 years from the date of manufacture.

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- > Mount on ceilings where practicable; position per manufacturers or National Construction Code (NCC) guidance and away from dead air spaces.
- > One alarm on every story of the home.
- > Locate so sleeping occupants receive early warning; typically, hallways near bedrooms and living areas; avoid kitchens/bathrooms where false alarms are likely.
- > Heat alarms are recommended in areas where smoke alarms are prone to false alarms like kitchens, bathrooms and garages.
- > Ceiling mount preferred; follow manufacturer's/National Construction Code (NCC) clearance rules.



RENTAL PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS

- > Under Residential Tenancies Regulations 2021: Landlords must ensure alarms are installed and working, tested annually, batteries replaced as needed, malfunctions treated as urgent repairs, and written instructions provided to Tenants on operation/testing/obligations.
- > Tenants must not tamper with alarms and must report faults promptly.

CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME REQUIREMENTS

- > From 1 July 2024: Registered caravans/ motorhomes must have at least one photoelectric smoke alarm:
 - 10-year non-removable battery,
 - Ceiling-mounted, and
 - Installed in annexes used for sleeping.

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

- > Test monthly, clean every six months, replace batteries annually (or when chirping), and replace the smoke alarm from 10 years of manufacture (or earlier if required).

CLASS 1A HOME SMOKE ALARM PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

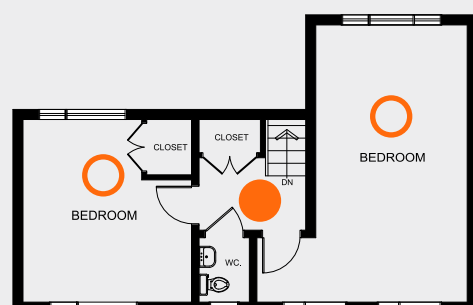


FLOOR 1

 Smoke alarms for minimum legal requirement.

 Smoke alarms for recommended protection.

These are recommendations made by the Victorian Government.



FLOOR 2