

Smoke Alarms

A quick guide for CERC's



CERC RESPONSIBILITIES

The state of Victoria requires all homes to have smoke alarms installed.

CERC rental providers need to ensure smoke alarms:

- are correctly installed and in working order
- are tested according to the manufacturer's instructions at least once every 12 months
- have their batteries replaced as required
- are repaired or replaced as an urgent repair.

New Renter Agreements

Renter and rental provider responsibilities for smoke alarm safety is required to be included in new rental agreements.

On or before the start of a rental agreement, a rental provider must give a renter written information on how each smoke alarm works and how to test them.

Annual Testing

A rental provider must ensure smoke alarms are tested at least every 12 months. Where electrical safety checks are being completed, smoke alarms should be included.

It is strongly recommended that a suitably qualified tradesperson undertakes the smoke alarm checks and provides a certificate of compliance to be kept on file.

Checks must confirm:

- All alarms were checked, cleaned and in working order
- Batteries were replaced
- Smoke alarms are in the required locations as per VBA guidance
<https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/guides/smoke-alarms>

Each property should have smoke alarms installed between each sleeping area and the rest of the house. Houses with more than one level should have a smoke alarm on each level.

Property type	Minimum smoke alarm requirement
Residential home constructed before 1 August 1997	Stand-alone nine-volt battery-powered smoke alarms installed.
Residential home constructed, largely renovated, or extended after 1 August 1997	Hard-wired smoke alarms that are connected to 240-volt mains power and have a backup battery.
Residential home constructed, largely renovated, or extended after 1 May 2014	Interconnected, hard-wired smoke alarms that are connected to 240-volt mains power and have a backup battery.