

BEST HOMES

MILTON'S
BEST HOMES

WEEKLY FROM
The Champion

IF YOU'RE
BUYING
OR
SELLING

YOUR
BEST
CHOICE IS

BEST HOMES

Smoke alarms can save lives

In the dead of winter don't be caught dead because you haven't got a smoke alarm.

That might be a pretty dramatic way of making a point but when you think that hundreds of Canadians lose their lives annually because of fires in the home, and discover that most of them occur in homes without such alarms, you want to make the point dramatically.

After all, smoke alarms range in price between 15 and 35 dollars plus installation if



Consumer
Corner

you are not a handyman, so it is not a major expense for most people.

Some municipalities, by the way, have smoke alarm bylaws so you may want to check with a representative of your local fire department.

There are two types of alarms, ionized and photoelectric, and both are effective in detecting and warning about fire.

If you are installing an alarm, it should be located in a hallway or corridor between the bedrooms and the living area of your home and be tested, of course, to see if it is audible in the bedrooms before being put into place.

Actually it's a good idea to put alarms on each level of the home and they should be placed on the ceiling at least six inches from the wall. Or if they are to be put on the wall, they should be at least 12 inches from the ceiling. That's because dead air space normally exists at the wall/ceiling area and smoke won't reach that area as quickly.

Detectors can be bought at most hardware stores but we suggest you look in the Yellow Pages directory and check before making the trip. Certainly they will know where you can get one.

Also, only smoke alarms that comply with the Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) are legally sold in Canada so make sure the ULC label is on the product. The sensitivity factor of the smoke alarm is set at the factory and shouldn't be adjusted. If you install a battery operated smoke alarm, the battery type is identified inside the alarm and should be the only type used.

Finally, smoke alarms aren't the whole answer. You should also check your home for fire hazards, plan what escape route you and the members of your family will take if a fire should occur and, if you are a smoker, never smoke while lying down. It is still one of the biggest reasons so many fires happen annually in this country.



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JULY SPECIAL

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