

# Perfect Christmas gift: smoke detectors

Smoke causes the majority of fire-related deaths, while hot flames are low on the list of killers, according to Fire Prevention Canada



## Make A Skating Rink



Almost everyone likes to skate in the winter, but most people don't like getting cold. One way to solve this problem is to have a skating rink very close to your house. Have you ever thought of making a rink? It's not difficult to understand how to make one, and it isn't hard to do, but it does take time. The process speeds up if friends help you out.

To make a skating rink you need about three cold days in a row; the first two weeks in January are usually pretty good for rink making. Homemade skating rinks are very dependent on the weather — if it gets warm, watch out!

To start a skating rink the first thing you have to do is tromp down the snow in your backyard. This is where friends can help out. If a bunch of you get together it doesn't take very long to walk and stomp on the snow until it's packed solid. Once this is done and you have a pretty level and firm surface, find your garden hose and spray the area lightly with water.

Before the water freezes, tromp around again and flatten as many bumps as you can. If it's a really cold day the water will freeze by the time you've finished smoothing everything out. If it has, spray the area lightly again; if not, wait overnight and spray the next morning. Don't forget to take the hose inside or it will freeze.

After two or three light sprays you should have a nice solid base for heavy flooding. After three or four floodings, your rink will be perfectly smooth and ready to skate on. If the ice gets bumpy, get out the hose again and water your rink. Have fun!

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Association (Fipreca).

Smoke contains deadly killer gases such as carbon monoxide and consumes life-sustaining oxygen. Fipreca points out that many fire victims die from these factors while they are asleep. As a matter of fact, in many fires that have been extinguished in early stages, people have been found dead of smoke inhalation without having suffered skin burns.

A smouldering fire many go undetected for hours, giving off smoke and gases, while people are asleep. An early warning system—a smoke alarm—is considered one of the most effective defences against this situation.

Fipreca says that understanding the dequence of events in a residential fire makes it easier to appreciate how smoke alarms can provide a time margin that can save your life. Most fires progress through four distinct stages—first the incipient stage, next the smoke stage, then the flame stage, and finally the high-heat stage.

Smoke alarms can alert the occupants in these early stages of a fire while conditions are such that a safe evacuation is still possible.

### How They Work

Smoke detectors work by sensing the rising smoke from a fire and sounding an alarm. They can detect smoke far from the origin of the fire and are most valuable at night, alerting family members to the presence of fire when they are sleeping.

At present there are

two types of smoke detection devices on the market—photo-electric and ionization chamber. The ionization detector contains a radioactive source in a smoke chamber that emits radiation, resulting in a weak flow of electric current. When particles such as those produced by fire enter the chamber, they reduce the current and trigger the alarm.

The photo-electric detector contains a chamber with either overlapping or porous covers which prevent the entrance of outside sources of light but which allow the entry of smoke. The unit contains a light source and a special photo-sensitive cell in the darkened chamber. The cell and light are positioned within the alarm in one of two manners so that either the light beam is interrupted by the smoke as in the obstruction type or the beam is deflected into

the cell as in the light scattering type.

Ionization detectors will respond more quickly to flaming fires, while photo-electric detectors will generally respond faster to smoldering fires...The differences, however, are not critical.

Dual detection smoke alarms that offer the advantages of both types in a single unit are also on the market. Whatever type you purchase, however, should be listed by a recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories of Canada.

### Where To Put Them

The location of the basic smoke alarm in the vicinity of sleeping areas does not provide sufficient protection for the occupants from a fire starting in their bedroom with the door closed. It may be desirable therefore, particularly if you smoke, to have ad-

ditional alarms within each bedroom and in other areas such as basements and family rooms.

Research indicates that substantial increases in warning time can be obtained with each, properly installed, additional alarm. A closed door can delay the movement of smoke, preventing it from reaching a smoke alarm, and fire confined in a large room often develops great intensity before it breaks out of the room. The basement is one area that can be large,

remote from the alarm, and isolated by some type of enclosure at the top of the stairs.

Basements also account for a significant number of fires and for these reasons, it is recommended that the smoke alarm be placed at the head of the stairs from the basement.

A smoke alarm is also recommended at the head of each stairway leading to an occupied area. This location may also serve the purpose of protecting a sleeping area in a two-storey house if the room layout is suitable.

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from Citizen,  
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## My Sincere Apologies...

Due to illness the past few weeks, I have been unable to spend much time in the store during this busy holiday season to look after old friends and customers - I wish to extend warm wishes this festive season and hope you enjoy good health and happiness in the new year!

Sincerely

**STEPHEN ORR,  
ORR'S JEWELLERS**