

Vacuum smoke alarms regularly – when clogged with dust they become inoperable, even when batteries are good

The next time you're vacuuming your house, don't just pay attention to the dirt and dust on the floor – look up to the smoke alarms on your ceiling.

When smoke alarms get plugged up with dirt and dust, they can become inoperable – even if the batteries are still good.

So every month or so, it is important to clean out the alarm detection chamber and protective cover with the soft brush attachment on your vacuum.

Other Tips:

✓ You may want to clean smoke alarms more often if there's a smoker in the house.

✓ Remember, fumes and other particles rise and can get captured in your smoke alarm.

✓ You should also test your alarm monthly to make sure it's working.

✓ Use a candle, cigarette, or incense to introduce smoke into the unit until the alarm sounds.

✓ If the alarm is battery-powered and doesn't sound, replace the battery and try again.

✓ If it's electrically connected to household circuits and doesn't sound check the fuse and try again.

✓ In either case, if the alarm still isn't working, replace the entire unit.

✓ A dead unit is worse than none at all, as it can give you a false sense of security.

✓ To ensure proper operation, replace the batteries at least once a year, or when you hear intermittent beeping.

✓ Don't use rechargeable batteries for smoke alarms; unlike non-rechargeable batteries, they will lose their charge without emitting any

warning signal.

✓ Install your alarms on each level of the home (including basements), in hallways adjacent to stairs or bedrooms.

✓ Always read the manufacturer's instructions for specific installation, maintenance and testing information.

And use only smoke alarms tested and approved by the CSA or ULC.

✓ Remember that most

fatal fires start at night, when you are asleep.

You can be overcome by smoke and never even wake up. Seconds can make the difference between life and death.

By detecting smoke in the early

stages of a fire and sounding an alarm, a smoke alarm can give you those vital seconds.

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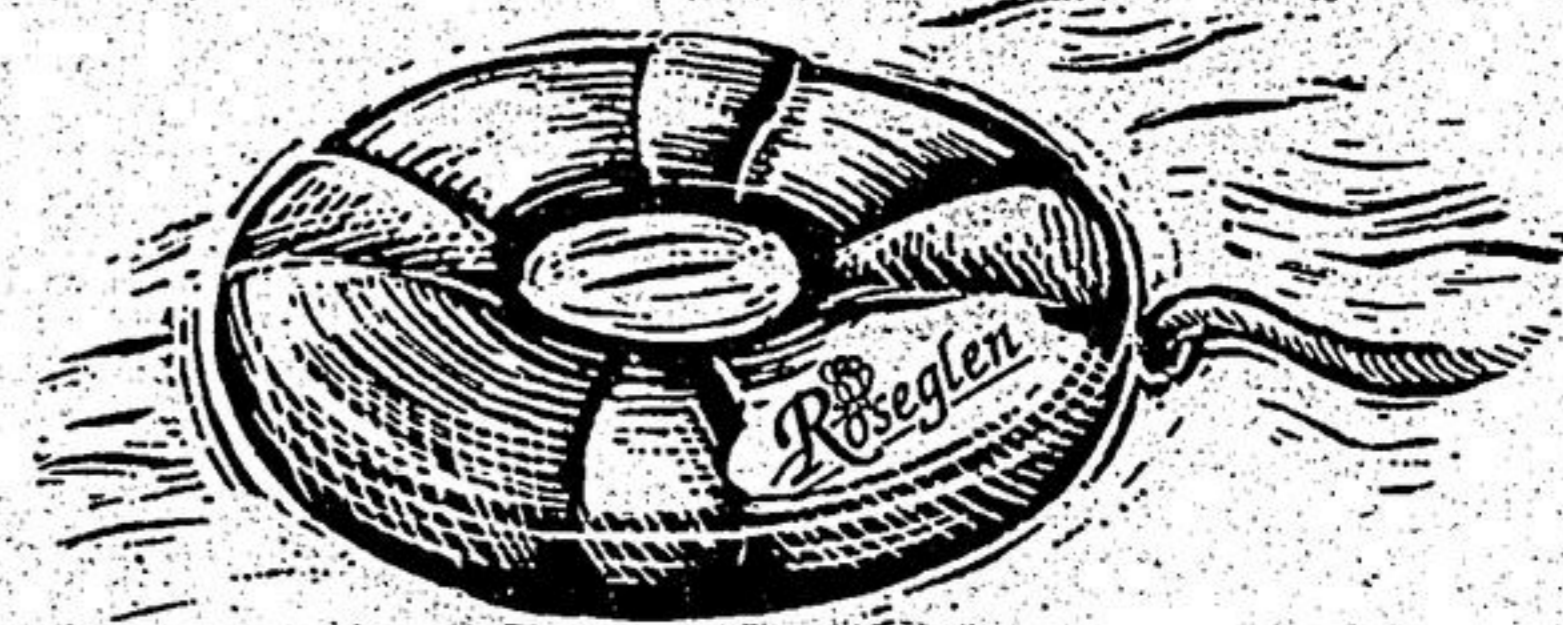
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