

What do I have to pay attention to when buying a smoke detector?

Battery operated smoke detectors are not expensive and you can purchase them in specialised shops or in building supplies stores.

Make sure that the smoke detectors have a **CE label**, referring to **DIN EN 14604** standards or a **VdS approval mark**.

For larger housing units it is convenient to interconnect the detectors installed in the separate rooms by a radio circuit or a wire linkage. In this case, when one detector is triggered, all the acoustic signals of the other detectors are activated automatically.

How do I install smoke detectors?

Smoke detectors can easily be installed by sticking or screwing them to ceilings.

Because smoke rises upwards, smoke detectors ideally should be placed in the middle of the ceiling.

The minimum distance from the detectors to walls or partitions should be at least 50 cm.

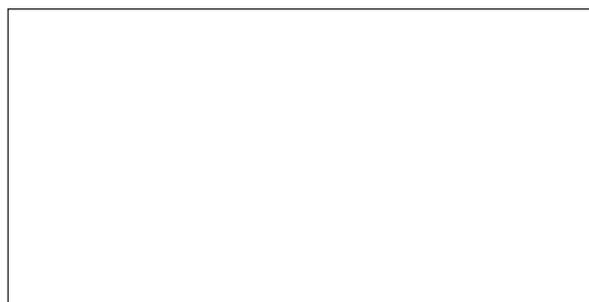
Don't forget ...

In case of fire, call the fire brigade immediately:

Emergency call 112

Further questions?

The local fire brigade and the fire prevention offices will give you further information.



Editorial

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for Sports of the State of Hesse
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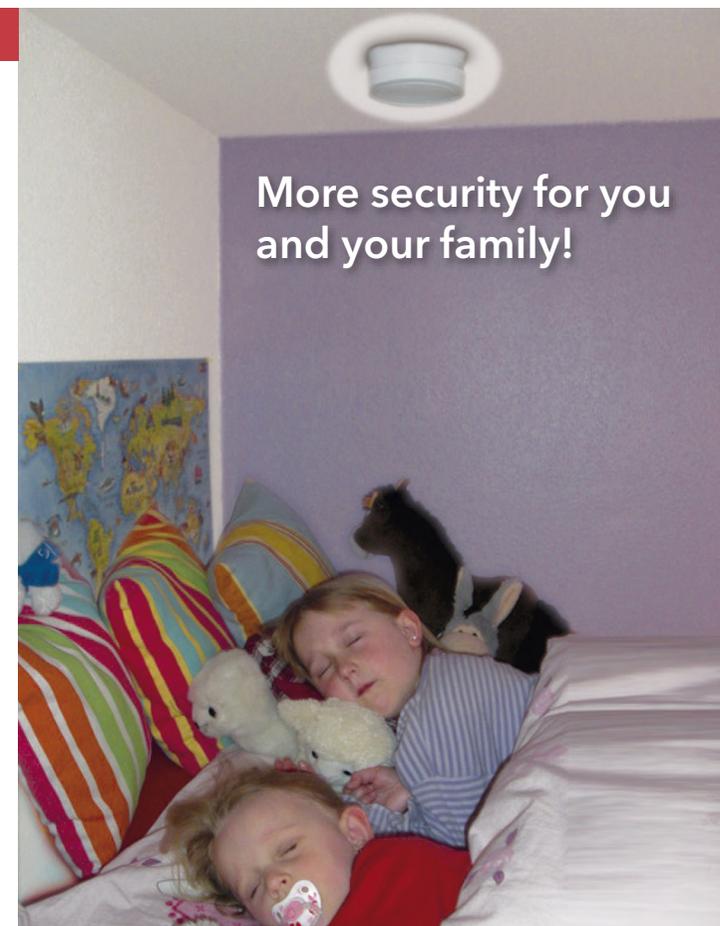
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Ministry of the Interior and
for Sports of the State of Hesse



Smoke detectors save lives!





Dear citizens,

every year, roughly 600 persons die due to fires in Germany! Another 6.000 children and adults get seriously hurt.

Two thirds of the victims are caught off guard at home, generally while they are sleeping.

This is why since 2005 the Federal State of Hesse installed a law, by which all new and reconstructed buildings must be fitted with smoke detectors at least in the following rooms:

- bedrooms, children's rooms and
- corridors that can be used as fire escapes.

Vacant apartments must be equipped until 31.12.2014.

At a low cost and with a small investment you can easily contribute to your and your family's safety.

Yours faithfully,

Boris Rhein

Minister of the Interior and for Sports of the State of Hesse

Why is smoke so dangerous?

In case of fire, not the flames but toxic smoke gas is the most frequent cause of death. This dangerous gas emerges from the phase leading up to the actual flames and spreads out so quickly, that within a few seconds orientation and consciousness may be lost.

In the event of fire, you only have a few minutes to escape from the inside of the house. Thus, smoke detectors are indispensable in order to make sure that fire can be detected in time.

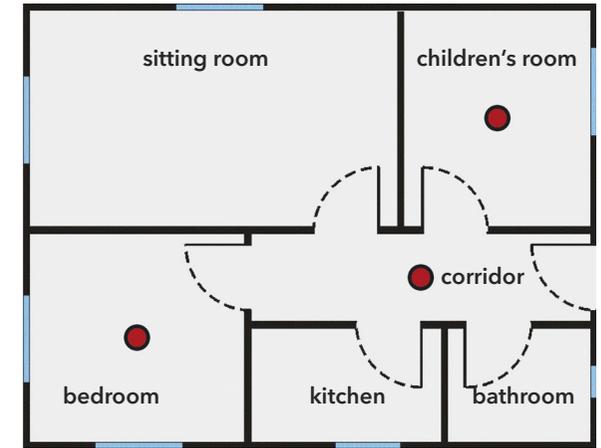
Smoke detectors do not prevent a fire, but they detect smoke gas and send out an audible warning signal in due time.



Photo: Fire brigade Wiesbaden

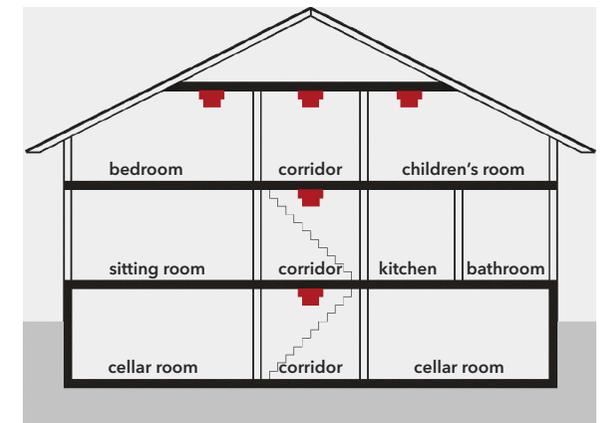
Which places must be controlled?

Ground view of an apartment:



● smoke detectors (minimum protection)

longitudinal section of a single-family house:



■ smoke detectors (minimum protection)