

**USER'S MANUAL  
SMOKE AND FIRE\* ALARM**

10-YEAR SEALED  
LITHIUM BATTERY  
PHOTOELECTRIC SMOKE  
ALARM WITH ESCAPE LIGHT  
AND SILENCE FEATURES

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ  
CAREFULLY AND SAVE.**  
The warnings/limitations card and manual contains important information about your smoke alarm's operation. If you are installing this alarm for use by others, you must leave this manual—or a copy of it—with the end user. Reference product card for additional information.



Printed in Mexico  
M08-0467-160283-L-US, L 01/18  
CONFORMS TO UL STD 217  
Model P1210E

**INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for choosing First Alert® for your smoke alarm needs. You have purchased a state of the art smoke alarm designed to provide you with early warning of a fire. Please take the time to read this manual and make the smoke alarm an integral part of your family's safety plan.

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**LOCATIONS TO AVOID FOR SMOKE ALARMS**

- Where combustion particles are produced. Combustion particles form when something burns. Areas to avoid include poorly ventilated kitchens, garages, and furnace rooms. Keep units at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the sources of combustion particles (stove, furnace, water heater, space heater) if possible. In areas where a 20-foot (6-meter) distance is not possible – in modular, mobile, or smaller homes, for example – it is recommended the smoke alarm be placed as far from these fuel-burning sources as possible. The placement recommendations are intended to keep these alarms at a reasonable distance from a fuel-burning source, and thus reduce "unwanted" alarms. Unwanted alarms can occur if a smoke alarm is placed directly next to a fuel-burning source. Ventilate these areas as much as possible.
- In air streams near kitchens. Air currents can draw cooking smoke into the sensing chamber of a smoke alarm near the kitchen.
- In very damp, humid or steamy areas, or directly near bathrooms with showers. Keep units at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from showers, saunas, dishwashers, etc.
- Where the temperatures are regularly below 40° F (4.4° C) or above 100° F (37.8° C), including unheated buildings, outdoor rooms, porches, or unfinished attics or basements.
- In very dusty, dirty, or greasy areas. Do not install a smoke alarm directly over the stove or range. Keep laundry room smoke alarms free of dust or lint.
- Near fresh air vents, ceiling fans, or in very drafty areas. Drafts can blow smoke away from the unit, preventing it from reaching the sensing chamber.
- In insect infested areas. Insects can clog openings to the sensing chamber and cause unwanted alarms.
- Less than 12 inches (305mm) away from fluorescent lights. Electrical "noise" can interfere with the sensor.
- In "dead air" spaces. "Dead air" spaces may prevent smoke from reaching the smoke alarm.

**AVOIDING DEAD AIR SPACES**

"Dead air" spaces may prevent smoke from reaching the smoke alarm. To avoid dead air spaces, follow the installation recommendations below.  
**On ceilings.** Install smoke alarms as close to the center of the ceiling as possible. If this is not possible, install the smoke alarm at least 4 inches (102 mm) from the wall or corner.  
**For wall mounting** (if allowed by building codes), the top edge of smoke alarms should be placed between 4 and 12 inches (102 and 305 mm) from the wall/ceiling line, below typical "dead air" spaces.  
**On a peaked, gabled, or cathedral ceiling,** install the first smoke alarm within 3 feet (0.9 meters) of the peak of the ceiling, measured horizontally. Additional smoke alarms may be required depending on the length, angle, etc. of the ceiling's slope. Refer to NFPA 72 for details on requirements for sloped or peaked ceilings.

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**KEY FEATURES OF THE P1210E SMOKE ALARM:**

**Photoelectric Sensing Technology:** Photoelectric Sensors are generally more sensitive than ionization sensors in detecting smoldering fires which commonly occur in couches or bedding.  
**OptiPath 360 Technology™:** Patented technology provides 360° of direct access to the smoke sensor.  
**Single Test/Silence Button:** Allows you to test the alarm or silence nuisance alarms. Testing the alarm assures you that the unit is functioning correctly and ready to protect you and your family. The alarm can be silenced for up to 9 minutes in the event of a nuisance alarm.  
**Escape Light:** Bright LED Escape Light activates when this unit goes into alarm to illuminate your path to safety.  
**10 Year End of Life Indicator:** 3 horn pulses every 43 seconds alerts you that the unit must be replaced.  
**Local Alarm Memory:** Green LED flashes 3 times every 43 seconds for 24 hours. After 24 hours the unit will chirp rapidly while the Test button is pressed. Memory is cleared when the button is released.  
**Low Battery Warning:** The alarm will sound a "chirp" once per minute when the smoke alarm needs to be replaced.  
**Low Battery Silence:** The alarm can be silenced for 8 hours.  
**Red Blinking Power Indicator every 6 minutes:** Confirms that the smoke alarm is receiving power.

All First Alert® smoke alarms conform to regulatory requirements, including UL217 and are designed to detect particles of combustion. Smoke particles of varying number and size are produced in all fires.

- I** Ionization technology is generally more sensitive than photoelectric technology at detecting small particles, which tend to be produced in greater amounts by flaming fires, which consume combustible materials rapidly and spread quickly. Sources of these fires may include paper burning in a wastebasket, or a grease fire in the kitchen.
- P** Photoelectric technology is generally more sensitive than ionization technology at detecting large particles, which tend to be produced in greater amounts by smoldering fires, which may smolder for hours before bursting into flame. Sources of these fires may include cigarettes burning in couches or bedding.

For maximum protection, use both types of smoke alarms on each level and in every bedroom of your home.

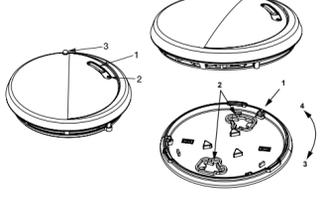
**HOW TO INSTALL THIS SMOKE ALARM**

This unit is designed to be mounted on the ceiling, or on the wall if necessary.

Tools you will need: pencil, drill with 3/16" (5 mm) drill bit, standard flathead screwdriver, hammer

**THE PARTS OF THIS SMOKE ALARM**

1. Test/Silence button
2. Dual power indicator light and alarm indicator. Green LED provides visual indication of an alarm memory condition; Red LED provides visual indication of an alarm and hush modes
3. LED Escape Light



1. Mounting bracket
2. Mounting slots
3. Turn this way to attach
4. Turn this way to remove

**BASIC SAFETY INFORMATION**

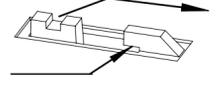
- ▲WARNING!**
  - This unit will not alert hearing impaired residents. It is recommended that you install special units which use devices like flashing strobe lights to alert hearing impaired residents.
  - Do not connect this unit to any other alarm or auxiliary device. It is a single-station unit that cannot be linked to other devices. Connecting anything else to this unit may prevent it from working properly.
  - Unit will not operate without battery power. The smoke alarm cannot work until you activate the battery power pack.
- ▲CAUTION!**
  - Do not install this unit over an electrical junction box. Air currents around junction boxes can prevent smoke from reaching the sensing chamber and prevent the unit from alarming. Only AC powered units are intended for installation over junction boxes.
  - Do not stand too close to the unit when the alarm is sounding. It is loud to wake you in an emergency. Exposure to the horn at close range may harm your hearing.
  - Do not paint over the unit. Paint may clog the openings to the sensing chamber and prevent the unit from operating properly.

**BEFORE YOU INSTALL THIS SMOKE ALARM**

Important! Read "Recommended Locations for Smoke Alarms" and "Locations to Avoid for Smoke Alarms" before beginning. This unit monitors the air, and when smoke reaches its sensing chamber, it alarms. It can give you more time to escape before fire spreads. This unit can ONLY give an early warning of developing fires if it is installed, maintained and located where smoke can reach it, and where all residents can hear it, as described in this manual. This unit will not sense gas, heat, or flame. It cannot prevent or extinguish fires.  
**Understand The Different Type of Smoke Alarms:** Battery powered or electrical? Different smoke alarms provide different types of protection. See "About Smoke Alarms" for details.  
**Know Where to Install Your Smoke Alarms:** Fire Safety Professionals recommend at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and in every bedroom hallway or separate sleeping area. See "Recommended Locations for Smoke Alarms" and "Locations to Avoid for Smoke Alarms" for details.  
**Know What Smoke Alarms Can and Can't Do:** A smoke alarm can help alert you to fire, giving you precious time to escape. It can only sound an alarm once smoke reaches the sensor. See "Limitations of Smoke Alarms" for details.  
**Check Your Local Building Codes:** This smoke alarm is designed to be used in a typical single-family home. It alone will not meet requirements for boarding houses, apartment buildings, hotels or motels. See "Special Compliance Considerations" for details.

**FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS**

1. Hold the mounting bracket against the ceiling (or wall) so the two clusters of universal mounting holes are aligned approximately at the 9:00 and 3:00 o'clock positions. See image. Choose one of the three sets of holes shown, A, B or C (see image) and trace around one of the sets. Be sure to choose a top and bottom slot on opposite sides so you can rotate the universal mounting bracket into position later. This will make it easier in the future to remove the mounting bracket without completely removing the screws.  
**WARNING! Do not install this alarm over an existing electrical box. Only AC powered units are intended for installation over electrical boxes.**
2. Put the unit where it won't get covered with dust when you drill the mounting holes.
3. Using a 3/16" (5 mm) drill bit, drill a hole through the center of the oval outlines you traced.
4. Insert the plastic screw anchors (in the plastic bag with screws) into the holes. Tap the screw anchors gently with a hammer, if necessary, until they are flush with the ceiling or wall.
5. Install the screws but do not tighten completely. Attach the mounting bracket by aligning the screws in the open portion of the universal mounting slots and rotating the bracket into place. Tighten the screws until they are snug to secure the bracket. Do not over tighten.
6. **Activating the battery.** Mount alarm to mounting bracket to activate. Once unit is activated, it cannot be turned off.  
**NOTE:** After you activate the battery, the power indicator light may flash. (If the unit alarms, the light will blink rapidly, and the horn will repeatedly sound 3 beeps, pause, 3 beeps.) Once the smoke alarm is on the bracket, you can rotate the alarm to adjust the alignment.
7. Test the alarm. See "Weekly Testing."
8. **TO PERMANENTLY DEACTIVATE THE SMOKE ALARM**  
After 10 years of operation or Low Battery Warning, deactivate the alarm. Insert a tool below edge where shown and break tab. Then slide activation switch to deactivate mode.  
**NOTE:** At end of life or low battery indication (chirp): unit must be put into deactivation mode to deactivate remaining stored energy in battery. Unit will no longer function once put into this mode. Unit will resist re-mounting.

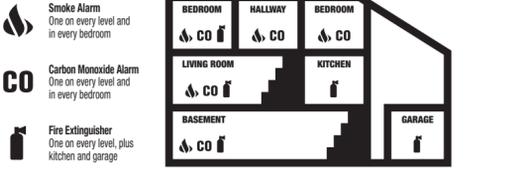


**RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS FOR SMOKE ALARMS**

**INSTALLING SMOKE ALARMS IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES**  
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), recommends one smoke alarm on every level, in every sleeping area, and in every bedroom. In new construction, the smoke alarms must be AC powered and interconnected. See "Agency Placement Recommendations" for details. For additional coverage, it is recommended that you install a smoke alarm in all rooms, halls, storage areas, finished attics, and basements, where temperatures normally remain between 40° F (4.4° C) and 100° F (37.8° C). Make sure no door or other obstruction could keep smoke from reaching the smoke alarms.

- MORE SPECIFICALLY, INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS:**
  - On every level of your home, including finished attics and basements.
  - Inside every bedroom, especially if people sleep with doors closed.
  - In the hall near every sleeping area. If your home has multiple sleeping areas, install a unit in each. If a hall is over 40 feet (12 meters) long, install an alarm at each end.
  - At the top of the first-to-second level stairway, and at bottom of basement stairway.

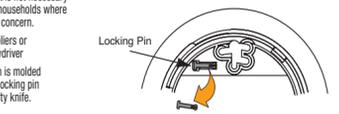
**RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT:**



**IMPORTANT!**  
Specific requirements for smoke alarm installation vary from state to state and from region to region. Check with your local Fire Department for current requirements in your area. It is recommended AC or AC/DC units be interconnected for added protection.

**OPTIONAL LOCKING FEATURE**

The optional locking feature is designed to prevent unauthorized removal of the alarm. It is not necessary to activate the lock in single-family households where unauthorized alarm removal is not a concern.  
**Tools you will need:** Needle-nose pliers or utility knife, standard flathead screwdriver  
The feature uses a locking pin which is molded into the mounting bracket. Remove locking pin by using needle-nose pliers or a utility knife.  
**IMPORTANT!**  
To permanently remove the locking pin, insert a flathead screwdriver between the locking pin and the lock and pry the pin out of the lock.



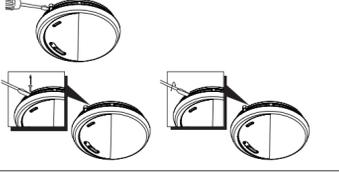
**TO LOCK THE MOUNTING BRACKET**

1. Using needle-nose pliers, detach the pin from the mounting bracket.
2. Insert the locking pin through the hole on the back of the smoke alarm as shown in the diagram.
3. When you attach the alarm to the mounting bracket the locking pin's head will fit into a notch on the bracket.



**TO UNLOCK THE MOUNTING BRACKET**

1. Insert a flathead screwdriver in between the mounting bracket and the locking pin.
2. Pry the alarm away from the bracket by pushing up the screwdriver and turning the alarm counterclockwise (left) at the same time.

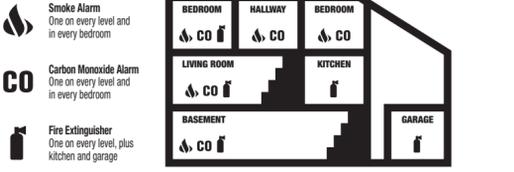


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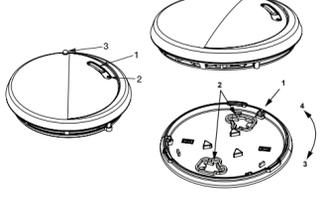
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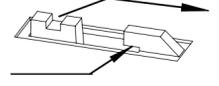
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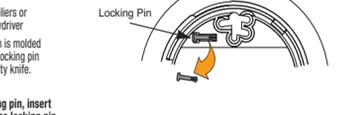
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