

It is vital that you keep the smoke alarm in your home in good working order so it will alert you if a fire breaks out, giving you and your family time to escape. Maintaining it will only take a few minutes, but could save your life.

To keep your smoke alarm working effectively, you should:

- Test your smoke alarm at least once a month to make sure it is working
- Clean your smoke alarm twice a year using a vacuum cleaner. This will remove any particles which could make it less effective
- Change the battery every year

How do I test my smoke alarm?

Testing your alarm is quick and easy. All you need to do is press the test button until the alarm sounds. If you can't reach it, you could use a broom handle or ask a friend, neighbour or family member to help.

If the alarm doesn't sound, you should replace the battery as soon as possible. If you have a hard-wired system, please get in touch with our Customer Services team on **01284 767224** who will be happy to help.

What are the options if my hearing has got worse or I am a deep sleeper?

If you have trouble hearing or sleep very deeply, you might find it helpful to use a different type of smoke alarm, such as one which alerts you with flashing lights or with a vibrating pad which is placed under your mattress or pillow.

For more information, call our Customer Services team on **01284 767224** or the Action on Hearing Loss information line on **0808 808 0123**.

How can I keep myself safe?

It is vital that you do not disable your smoke alarm so that you can smoke, burn incense or use candles, for example. You can also reduce the risk of fire by making sure any naked flames, burning or smouldering materials are fully extinguished before leaving them unattended.

