

# Smoke Detectors

## Tenants Information



## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - HOUSING DIVISION SMOKE DETECTORS

### USER INFORMATION

The smoke detectors installed in this council property are to give you early warning of a potential fire.

### DESCRIPTION

One, two or three smoke detectors have been fitted depending on the type of property. These are MAINS POWERED 230V. They also have a rechargeable battery backup facility in the event of mains failure.

This installation is slightly different to the run of the mill type system that is generally installed in domestic properties, in that you have a TEST and LOCATE / HUSH facility that controls all detectors.

Weekly testing can be carried out by yourselves following the instructions below.

### TESTING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS WITH A REMOTE CONTROL

- Turn on the TEST button.
- Check all the Smoke Alarms sound within 10 seconds and that the red lights on the Smoke Alarms are flashing every second.
- Turn off the switch. (Turning on the remote TEST switch is equivalent to pressing all the test buttons on all the Smoke Alarms simultaneously.)
- Test all your Smoke Alarms weekly.

## SILENCING YOUR SOUNDING SMOKE ALARMS

If, when the alarm goes off, there is no sign of smoke, heat or noise to indicate that there is a fire, you should get all the occupants into a safe place before you start investigating. Check the house carefully in case there is a small fire smouldering somewhere.

If it is a nuisance alarm, push and hold the HUSH button. All the alarms will switch to a reduced sensitivity, this feature will reset automatically after 10 minutes. All the Smoke Alarms will give a short beep every 40 seconds to remind you they have reduced sensitivity. To quickly return to normal operation (and to stop the 40 second beeps) simply turn on the test button - this cancels the hush mode and all the alarms return to their normal sensitivity. Then turn off the test button on completion.

If you have a LOCATE button in place of a HUSH button. Push and hold the LOCATE button as above and this will rapidly identify where the fire is located, it stops all the alarms sounding except ones sensing fire.

In the event of one of the detectors sensing smoke it will automatically set the other detector off so all detectors will sound wherever the smoke was detected upstairs or downstairs.

The detectors have rechargeable batteries installed and are guaranteed 5 years life.

Babergh District Council will check and service the detectors once a year, this includes battery replacement where required.

# Smoke Alarms

If you have any faults with the units when you are testing them please **Repairs Section - 01473 825757**

Before phoning faulty alarms through please check that it has not been caused by other means:-

- I. Dust etc. from decorating
- II. Cigarette smoke
- III. Steam from cookers
- IV. Aerosol sprays

False alarms can be cleared by fanning the unit with newspaper to clear/disperse fumes.

## **PLANNING YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE FOR WHEN THE ALARM GOES OFF**

Use the Smoke Alarm Test Buttons to familiarize your family with the Alarm sound and to practice fire drills regularly with all family members. Draw up a floor plan that will show each member at least 2 escape routes from each room in the house. Children tend to hide when they don't know what to do. Teach children how to escape, open windows, and use roll up fire ladders and stools without adult help. Make sure they know what to do if the alarm goes off.

1. Check room doors for heat or smoke. Do not open a hot door. Use an alternative escape route. Close doors behind you as you leave.
2. If smoke is heavy, crawl out, staying close to the floor. Take short breaths, if possible, through a wet cloth or hold your breath. More people die from smoke inhalation than from flames.



# Smoke Alarms

3. Get out as fast as you can. Do not stop for packing. Have a pre-arranged meeting place outside for all family members. Check everybody is there.

If you have any queries on the installation please do not hesitate to contact the **Contract & Asset Management Division** who will be pleased to help you.

## **USER INSTRUCTIONS** **KEEP FOR REFERENCE**

- ✓ **REGULARLY CHECK THAT THE GREEN MAINS INDICATOR LIGHT IS ON**
- ✓ **IF A NUISANCE ALARM OCCURS, FAN THE ALARM VIGOROUSLY WITH A NEWSPAPER TO HELP CLEAR THE SENSOR (OR PRESS THE HUSH BUTTON IN THE CORNER OF THE COVER OR ON THE REMOTE CONTROL SWITCH)**
- ✓ **TEST WEEKLY - PRESS THE BUTTON FOR 10 SECONDS AND A RED LIGHT BEHIND THE BUTTON OR ON THE COVER SHOULD FLASH. INTERCONNECTED ALARMS WILL ALSO SOUND.**
- ✓ **CLEAN YOUR SMOKE ALARM REGULARLY. THIS WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF FALSE ALARMS. (See below)**
- ✓ **REMOVE OR COMPLETELY COVER YOUR SMOKE ALARM WHEN REDECORATING TO PREVENT DUST OR OTHER CONTAMINATION DAMAGING THE UNIT.**

# Smoke Alarms

- ✘ **DO NOT ALLOW PAINT, WATER OR DUST TO CONTAMINATE YOUR ALARM.**
- ✘ **YOUR ALARM IS A MAINS 230V AC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE. DO NOT REMOVE THE COVER OR INSERT ANYTHING INTO THE ALARM.**
- ✘ **DO NOT PAINT YOUR SMOKE ALARM - IT MAY ALARM OR CEASE TO OPERATE.**
- ? **IF YOUR ALARM SOUNDS FOR NO REASON AND WILL NOT RESET, IT CAN BE REMOVED BY RELEASING THE CLIP ON THE BASE. SWITCH OFF MAINS FIRST**
- ? **IF BEEPING OCCURS, CHECK THAT THE GREEN MAINS LIGHT IS ON. PRESS THE TEST BUTTON FOR 10 SECONDS.**
- ? The rechargeable cells may require a few days to charge after first being connected to the mains. It may give a short beep every 40 seconds for up to 2 hours while it is charging.

## CLEANING YOUR ALARM

**WARNING.** Electrical shock hazard. Disconnect the AC mains at the fuse box or circuit breaker powering the Alarm before following the cleaning instructions.

Clean your Alarm regularly, particularly in dusty areas. Use the narrow nozzle attachment of your vacuum cleaner to remove dust, insects and cobwebs from the sides and cover slots where the smoke or heat enters. To clean the cover, wipe with a damp cloth. Dry cover thoroughly with a lint free cloth. If the contamination around the outer case indicates that the area is particularly dirty, remove the Alarm from the ceiling. Check that the openings in the black smoke sensing chamber are not clogged by visually inspecting them through the large openings around the edges of the Smoke Alarms. If they are clogged - an extremely rare occurrence - the Smoke Alarm must be replaced.