

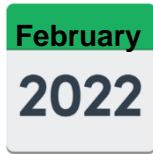
# **The Law on Fire Alarms is Changing**

**EASY READ**

**August 2021**



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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The law on fire alarms is changing.

By February 2022 every home in Scotland needs **interlinked** fire alarms.



If you are somewhere else in your house, you might not hear your fire alarm.



**Interlinked** fire alarms talk to each other.

When one goes off, they all go off so you will hear them.



This helps people to react quicker and save more lives.



An **interlinked** system tells you right away if there is danger. It does this wherever you are in your house.

There are 2 types of **interlinked** fire alarms:



1. A sealed long life battery alarm which you can fit yourself
2. A mains wired alarm which needs a qualified electrician to fit



Both types meet the new fire safety standard.

Both are linked by radio frequency. They do not need WiFi to work.



Every home needs:

- 1 smoke alarm in the room you spend most time in (usually your living room)
- 1 smoke alarm on every floor (either in the hallway or landing)
- 1 heat alarm in the kitchen



All the alarms should be fitted on the ceiling. They should be **interlinked**.

If your home has a **carbon-fuelled appliance** you will need a carbon monoxide detector.



You will need this if you have:

- A boiler
- A fire
- A heater
- A flue

These do not need to be **interlinked**.

## **Examples of what you will need.**

### **Living in a one-bed flat.**

You will need 2 smoke alarms and 1 heat alarm.



If you have a **carbon-fuelled appliance** like a boiler, you will need a carbon monoxide detector too.



You will need 1 smoke alarm in the hallway and 1 in the main living space.

You will need 1 heat alarm in the kitchen.

You need a carbon monoxide alarm fitted where there is a fuel-burning appliance.

The smoke and heat alarms need to be [interlinked](#).

### **Living in a 3- bedroom house.**



You will need 3 smoke alarms and 1 heat alarm. If you have a [carbon-fuelled appliance](#) you will also need a carbon monoxide detector.

You will need 1 smoke alarm at the top and bottom landings of the house.



You will need 1 smoke alarm in the living room.

You will need a heat alarm in the kitchen.

You need a carbon monoxide alarm fitted where there is a fuel-burning appliance.

The smoke and heat alarms need to be interlinked.



A system for a 3- bedroom house costs about £220.



Look for a recognised brand. Read online reviews. Check that each alarm meets the following standards:



- Smoke alarms: **BS EN14604:2005**
- Heat alarms: **BS 5446-2:2003**
- Carbon monoxide detectors: British Kitemark **EN 50291-1**



You might be unclear about the terms and conditions of your home insurance policy.



You should contact your insurer to check if the new fire alarms requirements will be included.



Most smoke and heat alarms can be recycled.

You can do this in your home recycling bin or your local recycling centre.



If you rent from a private landlord your home should already have **interlinked** fire alarms.



If your property does not have this, you should speak to your landlord.



If your landlord does not comply with the law, you can apply to a tribunal.

Social landlords are working to make sure interlinked fire alarms are in place.



Speak to your landlord if you are waiting for **interlinked** fire alarms to be installed.



For advice on fire safety or to request a Home Fire Safety Visit, contact The Scottish Fire and Rescue service on **0800 0731 999**

or visit: **[www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit)**





If you are worried about meeting housing standards, contact your local authority:  
**[www.mygov.scot/find-your-local-council](http://www.mygov.scot/find-your-local-council)**



If you are elderly or disabled, you can get help to install your alarms.

**For help with installing alarms if you're elderly or disabled visit:**

[www.careandrepairsotland.co.uk/officelocations.html](http://www.careandrepairsotland.co.uk/officelocations.html)



If you are worried about what someone trying to sell you or telling you call trading Standards Scotland on **0808 164 6000**



For more information on **interlinked** fire alarms visit: [www.mygov.scot/firealarms](http://www.mygov.scot/firealarms)



For any other queries visit:

[newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot](mailto:newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot)





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