



mygov.scot/firealarms

“Heard the law on fire alarms is changing?”

“Yeah, by February 2022 every home in Scotland needs interlinked fire alarms”

What are interlinked fire alarms?

By February 2022, every home in Scotland needs interlinked fire alarms. Alarms that talk to each other - so when one goes off, they all go off - helping everyone to react quicker and save more lives.

You might not hear the alarm closest to the fire, especially if you're somewhere else in the house. An interlinked system alerts you to danger immediately wherever you are in your home.

Are they battery-powered or mains-wired?

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

- 1) Sealed long-life battery alarms, which you can fit yourself.
- 2) Mains-wired alarms, which should be installed by a qualified electrician.

Both meet the new fire safety standard. And both are linked by radio frequency without the need for WiFi.

Where do the alarms go?

Every home needs:

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

All should be ceiling mounted and interlinked.

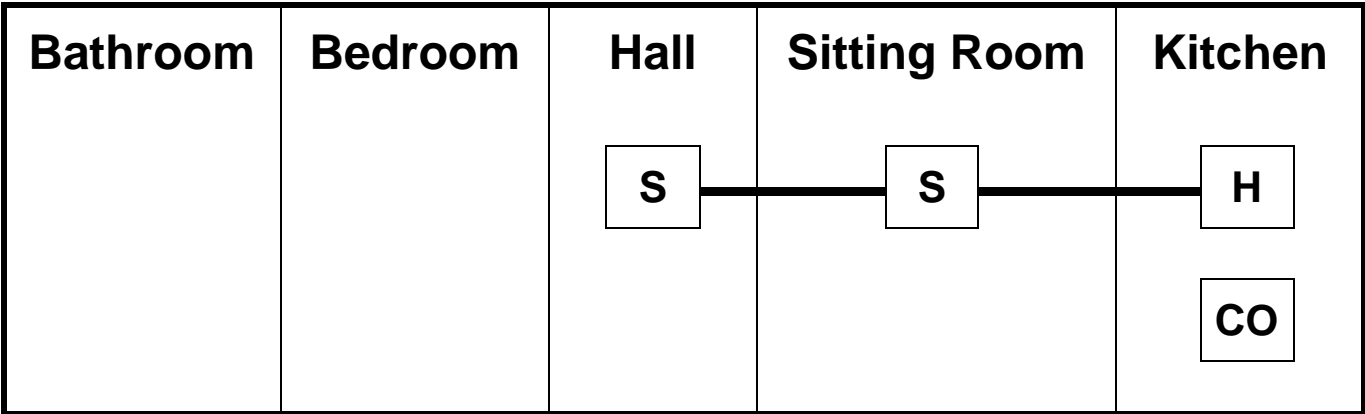
Will I need anything else?

If your home has a carbon-fuelled appliance – like a boiler, fire, heater or flue - you'll also need a separate carbon monoxide detector. **These do not have to be interlinked.**

Some examples

What if I live in a one-bed flat?

You'll need **2 smoke alarms** and **1 heat alarm**. If you have a carbon-fuelled appliance like a boiler, you'll need a carbon monoxide detector too.



S

Smoke Alarm
In hallway and main living space

H

Heat Alarm
In Kitchen

CO

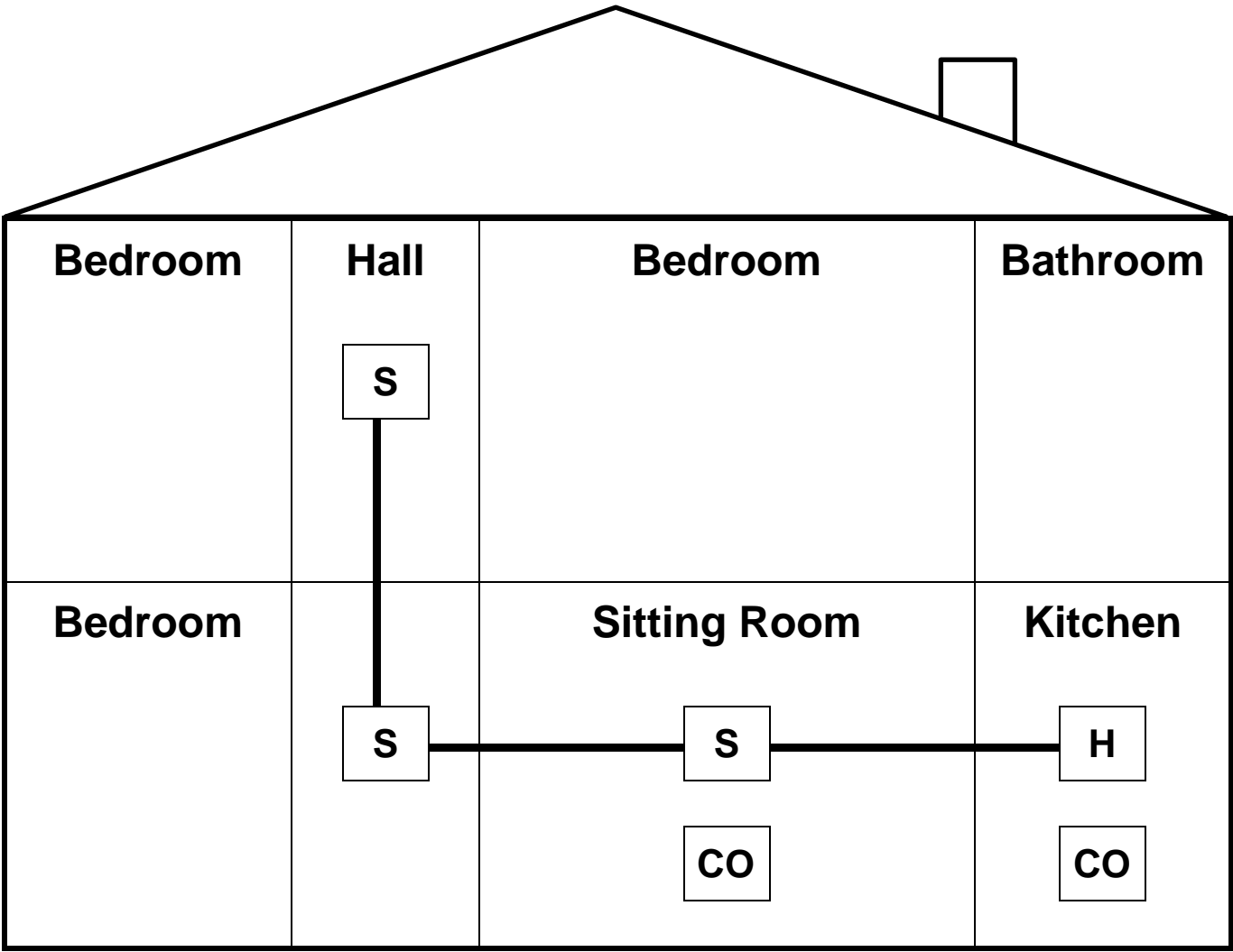
Carbon Monoxide Alarm
Fitted where there is a Fuel-burning appliance

—

Interlinked Alarms

What if I live in a 3-bed house?

You'll need **3 smoke alarms** and **1 heat alarm**.
If you have a carbon-fuelled appliance like a boiler, you'll also need a carbon monoxide detector.



How much do the alarms cost?

For an average 3-bed home, an interlinked system with sealed long-life battery alarms costs around £220. Look for a recognised brand, read online reviews and check that each alarm complies with the following standards:

Smoke alarms: **BS EN14604:2005**

Heat alarms: **BS 5446-2:2003**

Carbon monoxide detectors: **British Kitemark EN 50291-1**

Will my home insurance be affected?

If you are unclear about the terms and conditions of your home insurance policy, please contact your insurer to check if the new fire alarms requirements will be included.

What should I do with my old alarms?

Most smoke and heat alarms can be recycled, either at home in your recycling bin or at any recycling centre.

What if I rent?

Private landlords should already have interlinked fire alarms in their homes. If your rented property does not have interlinked fire alarms, speak to your landlord. If your landlord fails to comply, you have the right to apply to a tribunal.

Social landlords are carrying out a programme of work to make sure interlinked fire alarms are in place. Speak to your landlord if you are waiting for interlinked fire alarms to be installed.

Where can I find out more?

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

If you have any concerns about meeting housing standards, contact your local authority:

www.mygov.scot/find-your-local-council

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

www.careandrepairscotland.co.uk/office-locations.html

If you are concerned about a cold caller or about what a tradesperson is telling you, please call **Trading Standards Scotland** on **0808 164 6000**

For general guidance on interlinked fire alarms and frequently asked questions, visit: **www.mygov.scot/firealarms**

For any other queries please email:

newfirealarmstandard@gov.scot

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this text, the original documentation should be relied upon as the true and accurate version.