



# Make it **STOP!**

Smoke alarm driving you crazy?

## Nuisance Alarms a Problem?

If your smoke alarm frequently goes off when you're cooking or using the shower, **do not remove the battery or disconnect the power source.**

Disabling a smoke alarm will leave your home vulnerable in a real fire emergency *and* it's against the law. Instead, try the following practical solutions to end frequent nuisance alarms.

- **Stop nuisance alarms at the source.** Keep stove burners and ovens clean, adjust the timer setting on the toaster and use the range hood fan.
- **Install smoke alarms with a "hush" feature.** These devices have a button that, when pressed, will temporarily silence the alarm for 7 to 10 minutes, then automatically reset itself.
- **Move the smoke alarm.** It may be too close to the kitchen or bathroom and moving it to a different location could significantly reduce nuisance alarms. Battery-operated smoke alarms can be easily moved by homeowners, however electrically-connected alarms will require the services of an electrician.
- **Try a different type of smoke alarm.** There are two common types of smoke alarm technologies:

ionization and photoelectric. Photoelectric alarms are less prone to activate due to cooking activities. Replacing ionization smoke alarms located near kitchens with photoelectric alarms may solve the problem.

- **Replace older alarms.** Smoke alarms wear out over time and may be more likely to activate unnecessarily. If your smoke alarms are more than ten years old, replace them with new ones.

**Remember:** It is the law in Ontario to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas!

For information about nuisance alarms, visit [makeitstop.ca](http://makeitstop.ca), or contact your local fire department.



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