

**INTRODUCTION**

**IMPORTANT:** Please read this entire owner's manual and follow all directions as written.

**▲** This symbol alerts you to important operating instructions or to potentially hazardous situations. Please read these items carefully.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SMOKE ALARM**

- Install alarms outside of every bedroom area and on every floor of your home. Please refer to Section 3 "Where to Locate Smoke Alarms" for details.
- Install the alarm as close as possible to the center of the ceiling.
- Test the alarm weekly by pressing and holding the cover/test button for up to 20 seconds until the alarm sounds.
- Alarms described in this manual are designed for single family residences, including homes and apartments, rather than commercial or industrial use.

**Smoke Alarm Safety Features**

- Alarm Signal – U.S.: 3 beeps every 4 seconds  
Canada: continuous pulsating sound
- Operating Light (LED) – Light flashes approximately every 45 seconds to let you know that the unit is powered.
- Low Battery Warning Beep – Approximately every 45 seconds for up to 30 days to alert you when the battery is depleted.
- Dual-Ionization Chambers – Advanced design responds to visible or invisible particles of combustion (smoke) to sense fires in their earliest stages. Compensates for changes in humidity and temperature to virtually eliminate "nuisance" alarms caused by normal atmospheric changes in the home.
- Alarm Silencer – You may silence your alarm by pressing the test/pause button. The red LED will flash every 10 seconds for up to 10 minutes to remind you that the alarm has been silenced.

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**1. CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF SMOKE ALARMS**

American Sensors smoke alarms are designed to provide early warning of fire and smoke at reasonable cost. Early warning can mean the difference between a safe escape and no escape at all. While smoke alarms can provide invaluable protection for you and your family, they do have limitations.

Smoke alarms cannot work without power. Battery operated alarms will not work without proper batteries, with dead batteries or if batteries are not properly installed. AC powered alarms will not work if their AC power supply is cut off by an electrical fire, an open fuse, a circuit breaker or any other reason.

If you are concerned about the reliability of either batteries or your AC power supply for any of the above reasons, you should install in your home both AC and battery powered smoke alarms for added security.

Smoke alarms are incapable of sounding the alarm until smoke reaches the sensing chamber. Anything preventing smoke from reaching the alarm may delay or prevent an alarm. A smoke alarm cannot detect fire in the walls, chimney or roof unless and until a significant amount of smoke reaches the alarm. A closed door may prevent smoke from reaching an alarm on the other side of the door. A smoke alarm may not sense a fire on another floor of a home. For example, a basement smoke alarm may not detect a fire which started on the first or second floor.

Smoke alarms may not be heard. The loudness of the horn in your alarm meets current standards. However, the sound may be blocked by distance, closed doors, or ambient noise such as traffic or a stereo. Smoke alarms may not be heard by persons who are hard of hearing.

For these reasons, a smoke alarm should be installed in every room or at least on every level of your home. American Sensors recommends that hardwire AC powered smoke alarms be interconnected, so that one alarm will trigger all other alarms to sound their alarms.

Smoke alarms may not awaken sleeping children or other heavy sleepers.

Smoke alarms are not fool-proof. Smoke alarms may not always sense every kind of fire. They cannot be expected to sense fires caused by carelessness or by safety hazards. They may not give early warning of fast growing fires caused by smoking in bed, violent explosions, escaping gas, improper storage of flammable materials, overloaded electrical circuits, natural causes such as lightning, children playing with matches, or arson.

There are two different types of smoke alarm technology currently in general use: ionization and photoelectric. While both types of technology are suitable for general residential use, an ionization alarm will normally respond faster to fast flaming fires, while a photoelectric alarm may be more sensitive to detecting slow smoldering fires. Because home fires develop in different ways and are often unpredictable in their growth, it is impossible to predict which type of alarm will provide the earliest warning. For best home protection install at least one photoelectric and one ionization smoke alarm on each level of your home.

A photoelectric smoke alarm senses smoke using an electronic photo receptor to sense the scattering of light by smoke particles.

- Smoke alarms are not substitutes for property, disability, life or other insurance of any kind. Home owners and renters should continue to insure their lives and property. Consult your insurance agent.
- Smoke alarms have limited lives. One or more of the many components could fail at any time. Therefore, test your smoke alarm weekly. Clean and take care of it as described in this manual. Repair or replace the smoke alarm when it fails to test properly. Your smoke alarm should be replaced if it is ten years old.

**2. SAFETY TIPS**

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are an essential part of a good home fire safety program. Your fire safety program should also include a review of fire hazards and the elimination of dangerous conditions whenever possible. Consider the following tips:

- Use smoking materials properly. Never smoke in bed.

- Keep matches and cigarette lighters away from children.
- Store flammable materials in proper containers. Never use them near an open flame or sparks.
- Keep electrical appliances in good condition. Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Keep stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, and barbecue grills grease free. Make sure they are properly installed and away from any combustible materials.
- Keep portable heaters and open flames such as candles away from combustible material.
- Do not allow rubbish to accumulate.
- Keep a supply of extra batteries on hand for your battery powered smoke alarms.
- Do not stand too close to the alarm when the unit is in alarm as the loud horn could damage your hearing.

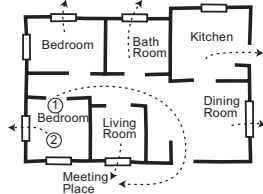
**▲WARNING:** Never disconnect the battery or the AC power on any type of smoke alarm to silence a nuisance alarm.

Most important, when fire strikes, a prepared and practiced escape plan can make the difference between life and death. Develop an escape plan and practice it with the entire family, including small children.

- Ensure all family members are familiarized with the alarm signal.
- Prepare an escape plan. Draw a Floor Plan of Your Home and determine two exits from each room. There should be a way to get out of each bedroom without opening the door.
- Have Fire Drills Often. Practice your Escape and BE PREPARED.
- Decide on a meeting place at a safe distance from your home.

**ESCAPE PLAN IN CASE OF FIRE**

- Don't waste time collecting possessions after a fire starts.
- Arouse all occupants and leave the building. Your most valuable possession is your life.
- Doors can mean escape or death. Never open doors without first checking for heat. Test them with your hands, if they feel warm, fire may be walled up behind them – leave closed and find another escape route.
- Call the fire department from OUTSIDE the building.
- If trapped inside, stay close to the floor, cover mouth with cloth, conserve breath as you crawl to safety.
- Keep all doors and windows closed except for escape purposes.
- NEVER re-enter a burning building.
- Keep your family in a pre-arranged meeting place after your escape.



Your local fire department may be able to offer you additional ideas for safety and escape plans in the home.

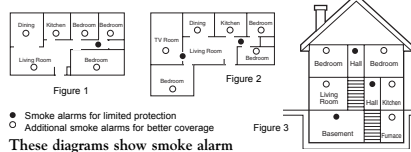
**3a. WHERE TO LOCATE SMOKE ALARMS**

As a minimum, smoke alarms should be located between sleeping areas and potential sources of fire such as a kitchen, heated garage or basement. In single story homes with one sleeping area, an alarm should be installed in the hallway outside the bedrooms (see Figure 1). In single story homes with two separate sleeping areas, a minimum of two alarms are required, one outside each sleeping area (see Figure 2). In multi-level or split-level homes, as a minimum, an alarm should be installed outside each sleeping area, in the basement and at every level of the home (see Figure 3).

- In every room of your home (except the bathroom): Research indicates that substantial increases in warning time can be obtained with each properly installed, additional alarm.
- In bedrooms: In anticipation of fires originating within these rooms, caused by faulty wiring, lamps, appliances, smoking or other hazards.
- In hallways: At a distance no greater than 13 feet (4 meters) from the farthest wall and no greater than 26 feet (8 meters) from the next alarm.
- In the center of a room or hallway: As it is impossible to predict the source of a fire. If it is necessary to place the alarm on a wall, always locate the top of the smoke alarm 4-6 inches (10-15 cm) from the ceiling.
- As needed: To compensate for closed doors and other obstacles that may interfere with the path of smoke to an alarm. They may also prevent occupants on one side of a closed door from hearing an alarm on the other side of the door.
- Do not install it directly over a stove, toaster or dishwasher.

**READ "CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF SMOKE ALARMS" in Section 1 of this manual.**

Your local fire department or insurance company may be able to give you further advice on the best smoke alarm locations in your home. Call them and ask.



These diagrams show smoke alarm locations as recommended above in 3a.

**3b. WHERE TO LOCATE SMOKE ALARMS IN MOBILE HOMES**

In mobile homes built after 1978 locate the smoke alarm as described above.

Older mobile homes may have little or no insulation compared to the ones built post 1978. These uninsulated exteriors can disrupt airflow around the smoke alarm in hotter or colder weather. Locate the alarm only on interior walls 4" to 6" (10 to 15 cm) from ceiling. 1. If you own an older mobile home, 2. If you notice the exterior walls and/or ceiling are noticeably cold or warm 3. If you are uncertain about the quality of insulation. Regardless of the age of the mobile home, locate alarms throughout to ensure maximum protection. Follow the location instructions in this manual.

**4. NFPA RECOMMENDATIONS**

For your information, the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 72 reads as follows:

2-2.1.1.1.1 Smoke alarms shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and on each additional story of the family living unit, including basements and excluding crawl spaces and unfinished attics. In new construction a smoke alarm also shall be installed in each sleeping room.

A-2.5.2.1 Smoke Detection – Are More Smoke Alarms Desirable? The required number of smoke alarms might not provide reliable early warning protection for those areas separated by a door from the areas protected by the required smoke alarms. For this reason, it is recommended that the household consider the use of additional smoke alarms for those areas for increased protection. The additional areas include the basement, bedrooms, dining room, furnace room, utility room, and hallways not protected by the required smoke alarms. The installation of smoke alarms in kitchens, attics (finished or unfinished), or garages is not normally recommended, as these locations occasionally experience conditions that can result in improper operation.

**5. LOCATIONS TO AVOID**

Avoid locations where smoke may not reach the alarm in time to provide early warning, or where the alarm may not be effective. DO NOT PLACE SMOKE ALARMS:

- In turbulent air from fans, doors, windows, etc. The rapid air movement may prevent combustion particles from entering the alarm.
- In dead air spaces such as at the peak of an "A" frame ceiling. "Dead air" at the top may prevent smoke from reaching the alarm in time to provide early warning. In rooms with simple sloped, peaked or gabled ceilings, install smoke alarms on the ceiling 3 feet (90 cm) from the highest point of the ceiling. Note: For complex ceiling structures, consult a safety expert for the number of alarms required and the best locations.
- In very hot or cold areas where the temperature exceeds 100°F (37.8°C) or falls below 40°F (4.4°C).
- Less than 6 inches (15 cm) from the wall when mounted on the ceiling.

Nuisance alarms could result when smoke alarms are located where interference may occur with the sensing chamber. To avoid nuisance alarms, DO NOT place smoke alarms:

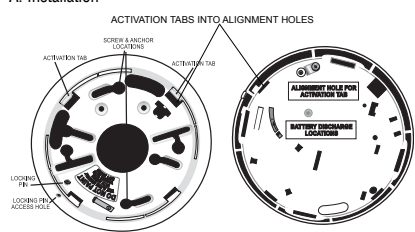
- In high humidity areas such as bathrooms and attics. Place smoke alarms at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from bathrooms.
- In insect-infested areas.
- In poorly ventilated kitchens or garages.
- In very dusty and dirty areas.
- Near fluorescent lights. Place smoke alarms at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) from fluorescent lights.

**▲WARNING:** Do not connect this smoke alarm to any other alarm or auxiliary device. Connecting the alarm to any other device may be detrimental to its proper operation.

**6. INSTALLATION AND TESTING**

**IMPORTANT:** This alarm cannot be used with detector guards.

**A. Installation**



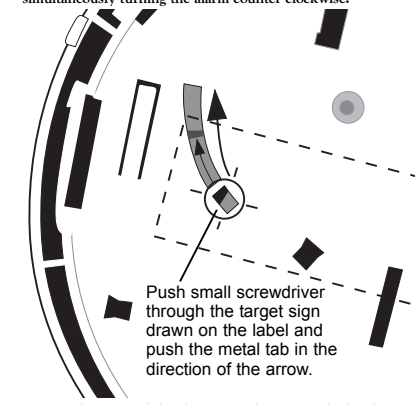
- Obtain a screwdriver and a drill with 3/16" (5 mm) bit.
- Using the mounting plate as a template, mark locations for screws. Drill holes as marked. Keep smoke alarm away from dust while drilling. Mark holes through the alarm base, then remove the alarm. Drill two 3/16" (5 mm) holes to line up with mounting holes in the alarm base. Keep smoke alarm out of reach from plaster dust while drilling.
- Insert the plastic anchors, screw mounting plate onto anchors.
- Install smoke alarm onto mounting plate by aligning activation tabs on mounting plate to openings in smoke alarm base. To permanently energize the batteries, twist the mounting plate clockwise.
- Test at least once a week by pressing test button for up to 20 seconds, until the horn sounds, then release. The horn will stop sounding.

Note: This equipment should be installed in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 72. (National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269).

**B. Decommissioning at End of Product Life**

**IMPORTANT:** The following steps will DESTROY your smoke alarm and must only be performed at the end of product life. When the battery is depleted, the low battery signal will sound (one beep every 45 seconds) and at this point the alarm must be replaced.

- Remove the smoke alarm from the mounting plate by depressing the locking pin (use a small screwdriver or similar tool) through the access hole in the mounting plate, and simultaneously turning the alarm counter clockwise.



- Prior to disposing of the alarm, in order to stop the low battery signal, the batteries must be discharged. To do this, push a

small screwdriver through the target drawn on the instruction label and break the plastic bridge that blocks the metal discharge tab. Next, push the metal tab in the direction of the arrow, along the curved slot.

- The alarm may now be properly disposed.

**7. MAINTENANCE & TROUBLESHOOTING**

**VACUUM EVERY SIX MONTHS**

Your Smoke Alarm should be cleaned every six months to help keep it working efficiently. Open cover and gently vacuum interior of alarm. Keep vacuum nozzle from touching unit. Do not paint the unit.

**TEST WEEKLY BY PRESSING TEST BUTTON**

**PROBLEMS MAY BE INDICATED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

- The alarm does not sound upon pressing the test button/cover.
- The operating light remains steadily on or off (i.e. does not flash once every 45 seconds, when the unit is not in alarm).
- The alarm "beeps" once every 45 seconds (Low Battery Warning).

**TRY THE FOLLOWING:**

- Inspect for obvious damage.
- Gently vacuum as recommended above.

If these procedures do not correct the problem, do NOT attempt repairs. If the smoke alarm is within warranty period and terms, indicate the nature of the problem and return the unit with proof of purchase to the point of purchase, distributor or manufacturer. See below for instructions. Units beyond warranty cannot be economically repaired.

**FALSE ALARMS:**

Abnormal air conditions may cause the highly sensitive smoke alarm to give a "false" alarm. If no fire is apparent, activate the Alarm Silencer feature and ventilate the room and/or blow fresh air into the unit until the alarm stops. Once cleared, the smoke alarm will automatically reset.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE ALARM FROM THE MOUNTING PLATE OR TO OPEN THE COVER IN ORDER TO DISCONNECT THE BATTERY.**

Dust can lead to excess sensitivity. Vacuum as recommended above.

**8. 10 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY**

Your American Sensors SA901 is warranted for ten years from date of purchase against defects in material and workmanship. Units returned to Dicon Global Inc. with proof of purchase date during this period as a result of such defects will be repaired, or replaced at Dicon Global Inc.'s option, without charge. This warranty only covers defects in material or workmanship in normal residential use and does not cover damage resulting from negligent handling, misuse, or lack of reasonable care. This warranty is in lieu of any other warranty either expressed or implied.

DICON GLOBAL INC. SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR ANY SPECIAL INCIDENTAL, CONTINGENT OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGE OF ANY KIND RESULTING FROM A FIRE. THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR BREACH OF THE LIMITED WARRANTY CONTAINED HEREIN IS THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF THE DEFECTIVE PRODUCT AT DICON GLOBAL INC.'S OPTION. IN NO CASE SHALL DICON GLOBAL INC.'S LIABILITY UNDER ANY OTHER REMEDY PRESCRIBED BY LAW EXCEED THE PURCHASE PRICE. YOUR SMOKE ALARM IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROPERTY, DISABILITY, LIFE OR OTHER INSURANCE OF ANY KIND. APPROPRIATE COVERAGE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. CONSULT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT.

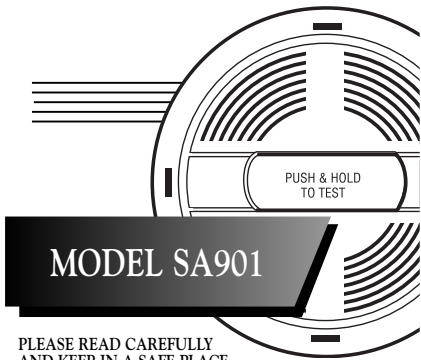
This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which may vary from State to State.

Return to point of purchase for servicing. Or, for repair or replacement within the warranty period, return this product (or send it postage prepaid) along with proof of purchase date to Dicon Global Inc. Please enclose a note stating the nature of the difficulty. Prior to sending, please call our toll free 1-800 line (1-800-387-4219) to establish a Returned Goods Authorization ("RGA") number and the latest instructions to serve you promptly. Please mark this number on the exterior of your package. Note: Date Code located on back of smoke alarm.

Dicon Global Inc.  
1325 Morse Ave.  
Elk Grove Village, Illinois, U.S.A. 60007  
Healthy Home Hotline: 1-800-387-4219  
www.nadi.com



**IONIZATION SMOKE ALARMS**



**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE.**  
This manual contains important information. A copy of this manual must be left with the end user.