Smoke detector maintenance and sensitivity testing

There's no shortcut to safety

Smoke detectors are only effective when they are working correctly, and that's why the NFPA has updated recommendations regarding maintenance and testing. Unfortunately, many businesses are still just testing them once a year and putting their maintenance at a low priority—until something happens.

Our ADT Commercial team is comprised of experienced professionals who are fully informed of NFPA code, utilize the latest testing techniques and can provide the documentation you require. No matter what kind of system you have, we'll create a testing and maintenance plan that will help cut costs and protect lives.
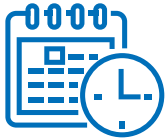
What you need to know about NFPA 72

NFPA 72 prescribes that a visual inspection of smoke detectors be completed on a semi-annual basis, functional testing on an annual basis and sensitivity testing the first year after installation and every two years thereafter. The standard also provides instructions for testing smoke detectors in place and testing sensitivity using a measured concentration of smoke or other aerosol. However, your local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) can change these regulations, so it is important to stay informed of local updates.

How we test is important

The ADT Commercial team works with equipment from our partner SDI to get your tests done right. We are familiar with all types of control panels and systems and utilize poles to place smoke tests exactly where we want them. After a visual inspection, for each test we blow a measured amount of smoke directly into the detector—using a precise closed loop system for accuracy. We test functionality to determine if all of the components are working, responding when triggered and operating properly. We also test sensitivity to determine how much smoke the detector is responding to. If the detector is malfunctioning or determined to be outside its listed range, we'll clean and recalibrate or replace it. Clean detectors can help reduce nuisance or false alarms.

It's critical for you to test and inspect regularly

Although protecting lives and staying up to code are the primary reasons to test and inspect your detectors regularly, there are other reasons:

•   You may not know there is a problem without testing

•   Limit your liability

•   Insurance carriers, local building departments and local fire inspectors may require it

•   Helps reduce nuisance alarms and the related costs

Smoke detector maintenance requirements

Requirement	Frequency	Notes
Visual test	Initial install/reacceptance, semi-annually after that	Can be performed by owner or ADT Commercial
Functional test	Annually	Requires measured smoke or listed aerosol blown into smoke detector chamber
Sensitivity test	One year after install, every two years thereafter	May be extended to maximum of five years if two tests in a row were in acceptable sensitivity range
Cleaning	As required	Varies by smoke detector manufacturer and environmental conditions
Replacement	Option if found to be outside sensitivity range	Average lifespan is 10 years

Let's start a conversation.

Reach out to your local ADT Commercial team for required inspections and help ensure your system will be ready if you should ever need it. We make it easy to switch providers, and our onboarding process is predictable, dependable and painless.

833.238.5224
adt.com/commercial

ADT® Commercial