

PEARL® Protected FAQ's

What is PEARL®?

PEARL is a patented, Permanent Escape And Rescue Ladder that can be quickly and easily deployed in the event of a residential fire or other home emergency. PEARL is installed into the wall space beneath second or third-story windows and features a paint-grade access door, which means the device blends well with existing decorating styles and colors.

Does PEARL fit both two and three story homes? How long is the ladder?

Yes. The PEARL unit includes a full, three story ladder that can be customized to fit any length shorter than three-stories. So, if you have a two-story home you simply cut off the extra rungs to fit the exact distance from your window to the ground. The ladder itself is just under 24', providing you with 27' of coverage.

Many homes today have complex roof lines and balconies. The ladders won't work.

There are many models available today that will work in both scenarios. Technology today allows the manufacturer to take building designs into consideration. Please contact us directly with specific questions.

How does PEARL differ from a portable escape ladder?

Unlike portable escape ladders, PEARL provides "always there" functionality and peace of mind. Because it is permanently installed recessed in the wall space under the window, escape is as simple as **Open, Throw, and Go!**® Open the window, throw out the ladder, and descend. Also, PEARL is the strongest escape and rescue ladder on the market, supporting up to 1500 pounds, allowing family members or rescue workers to descend while simultaneously assisting young children, elderly, or disabled persons on the ladder.

Couldn't I just go down to my local hardware store and buy a ladder for \$100?

Our ladder includes high-tech engineering and materials that are sometimes not found in portable ladders. PEARL is permanently installed - it is exactly where you need it, when you need it. The original inventor of PEARL came upon a horrible scene - two children who died in the smoke and fire because they couldn't find a portable ladder just a few feet away.

Is PEARL easy to use?

Yes. PEARL is designed with simplicity in mind so the entire family, even children, can understand the deployment process. To deploy PEARL, just remember to **Open, Throw, and Go!**® Open the window, throw out the ladder and descend to safety.

I already have a smoke detector and/or fire sprinkler system installed in my home. Isn't that enough to protect me and my family from a fire?

No. To be effective, a fire safety plan must address three key areas: detection, suppression, and escape. While smoke detectors and sprinklers are permanent devices used to detect and extinguish dangers such as fire, PEARL addresses the need to escape safely from these dangers.

PEARL[®] Protected FAQ's

Today's homes are much safer than the older homes from residential fires.

While it is true that most residential fires occur in older homes, the homes we build today are the homes of the future. The materials used today in home building as well as in furniture design are much more combustible than the older versions. For this reason, untenable conditions can occur in 3 minutes vs the 17 minutes recorded in 1975.

Won't my children use PEARL to sneak out at night?

Probably not. The ladder is **very noisy**. They would have to deploy the aluminum rungs without clanking against the side of the house, close the window after they get outside the house, quietly climb down the ladder, and hope no one would notice. Upon their return, they need to pull the noisy ladder back in through the window and repack it silently. Teenagers agree; it's a lot easier to sneak out the front door.

Could I tie PEARL into my alarm system in case my children play around with the ladder?

Yes you can. You can have your alarm company place a sensor on the upstairs window and the door of the unit.

Can I use PEARL for fire drills?

Yes, we recommend that you practice using PEARL. However, we also recommend going outside and climbing up the ladder several rungs high to get a feel for using PEARL.

There is no way to handle upkeep and maintenance of the ladder.

Not true. The same way fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are regularly inspected, so should the permanent escape ladder be inspected. Instructions are provided in the manufacturers' installation and use guide.

How easy is it to repack?

PEARL folds up easily, step-by-step with the webbing falling right back into place and the rungs nesting inside each other.

Can I get an insurance discount by installing PEARL?

PEARL is actively working with insurance companies to offer such a discount. You can check with your insurance company to see if they will discount your policy for living in a safer home. However, at this point in time we know of no formal insurance discounts for installing PEARL.

How does a current fire/emergency escape plan change with the installation of PEARL?

PEARL provides what many current emergency escape plans lack - safe options when a primary exit, such as a downstairs front door, is not available. Changes to a current fire/emergency escape plan should include devising separate plans for upstairs and downstairs escapes. There should also be a plan of action that will help children or other household members determine: 1) where the dangers are located, 2) whether an upstairs or downstairs escape is necessary and 3) whether PEARL should be deployed from each of the individual bedrooms versus everyone meeting in a centralized location.

PEARL[®] Protected FAQ's

How many people can descend down a PEARL ladder at one time?

PEARL can support up to 1500 pounds at any given time making it the strongest product of its kind on the market. This is especially important during rescue situations when young children, elderly, or disabled persons need assistance descending the ladder.

Is the installation process lengthy or complicated?

Although PEARL Protected recommends professional installation, a basic installation can be performed by do-it-yourselfers. PEARL devices come with a detailed, step-by-step installation guide that is easy to follow and alerts installers to any potential "red flags" such as wiring and piping sometimes found behind walls. Please follow the link to the installation guide to see detailed steps and tools needed.

Where in the home is PEARL installed?

PEARL can be installed beneath second or third-story windows. A required finished space of 14" (h) x 16 1/2" (w) is necessary to install the ladder.

How many PEARL ladders should be installed in a home?

For maximum safety, PEARL Protected recommends a ladder be installed in at least two bedrooms or living spaces above the first floor.