



Disposing of Old Smoke Alarms Safely

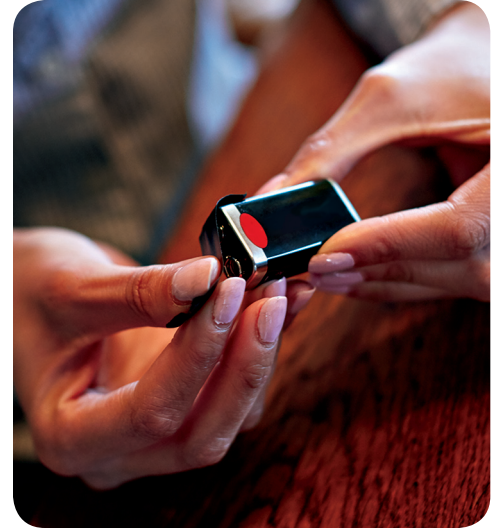
Smoke alarms save lives. But they don't last forever. Know how to get rid of old smoke alarms safely. There are simple steps you can take when it is time to replace your smoke alarms. In general, there are two kinds of smoke alarms. Photoelectric smoke alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires.

SAFETY TIPS

- »»» Look at the back of your smoke alarm to find out what type of alarm you have.
- »»» It is safe to put photoelectric smoke alarms in the trash.
- »»» It is not safe to put ionization smoke alarms in the trash. They contain a small amount of radioactive material.
- »»» Combination smoke alarms have both types of sensors. It is not safe to put them in the trash.
- »»» Learn how to throw away smoke alarms. You can contact the company that produced them. The name is printed on the back of the alarm. You can also contact your city or town.

BATTERY DISPOSAL

- »»» Some batteries cannot be thrown in the trash.
- »»» Some smoke alarms have sealed batteries. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of them.
- »»» Cover the posts on 9-volt batteries. Masking tape can be used. Electrical tape can be used. This is done for safety. Contact your city or town. Then get rid of them.



SMOKE ALARM CARE

Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169