

# SMOKE ALARMS

## *Smoke Alarms Save Lives*

### What Are the Different Types of Smoke Alarms?

- Ionization Alarms – These types of smoke alarms sound in a quicker timeframe when there is a fast and flaming fire.
- Photo-Electric Alarms – These types of smoke alarms sound in a quicker timeframe when there is a smoky and smoldering fire.

### What Are the Different Types of Power Sources?

- 9 Volt Battery Power – These smoke alarm batteries must be replaced at least every year, and the entire smoke alarm should be replaced every 8 to 10 years.
- Lithium Battery Power – Long-lasting lithium batteries do not have to be replaced. The manufacturer suggests replacing the entire smoke alarm every 8 to 10 years.
- House Current Power – Smoke alarms that are wired into the home may have a battery back-up if so, The 9 volt back-up battery should be replaced at least yearly. If the back-up battery is lithium powered, it will not need to be replaced. Smoke alarm manufacturers suggest you replace your smoke alarm every 8 to 10 years.

### Five Quick Tips

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, as well as inside of all sleeping areas.
- You should test your smoke alarms each month.
- You should lightly dust or vacuum your smoke alarm after each test.
- The entire smoke alarm should be replaced every 8-10 years.
- Your family should plan and practice a home escape plan during your smoke alarm testing routine.

### How to Maintain Your Smoke Alarm

- You should test your smoke alarm regularly.
- You should remove the cover and gently vacuum or dust your smoke alarm annually or when the battery is changed. Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning.
- Standard 9 volt battery powered alarms should have the battery replaced each year; do this when you change your clock in the fall.
- Lithium battery powered smoke alarms do not need new batteries each year; instead, replace the entire alarm after 8 to 10 years.
- Never paint over any portion of your smoke alarm.
- If your smoke alarm activates due to a fire in your home, the smoke alarm should be replaced.



### Where to Install Your Smoke Alarm

- *There should be a smoke alarm on every level of your home.*
- *You should place a smoke alarm in each bedroom.*
- *You should not install smoke alarms near fireplaces or wood stoves or in the kitchen; they tend to false alarm more frequently in those areas.*
- *Install smoke alarms at least three feet away from any air return or air vent.*
- *If you have to install your smoke alarm on a wall, it should be placed four to 12 inches below the ceiling.*