

Is Your Home Affected by Maryland's Smoke Alarm Law?

Do you...

- Live in a home that uses battery-powered smoke alarms?
- Ever forget to replace the batteries in your smoke alarm?
- Have smoke alarms installed only in hallways and not in every bedroom?
- Know the last time you replaced your smoke alarm? Was it more than 10 years ago?
- Do you plan to renovate your home or move to a new residence?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, check your fire safety equipment today.

As of July 1, 2013, Maryland law requires homeowners to replace existing battery-operated smoke alarms with ones containing a 10-year sealed battery. These long-life alarms will provide continuous power for a decade, meaning you never have to remember to replace batteries.

The law also states that smoke alarms shall be upgraded in all existing residential dwellings to include at least one alarm on each floor, including basements, as well as in each sleeping area.

Homes must also upgrade upon change of ownership or tenant if the residence uses battery-powered alarms and upon the issue of a building permit.

Why Act Today?

Dead or missing batteries are the main reason smoke alarms don't respond in a fire, and most fatal fires happen in homes where the alarm either didn't operate or wasn't present. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends installing smoke alarms on each floor and in sleeping areas, yet three out of four U.S. homeowners don't know where to place them. On average, you have less than three minutes from the sound of the first smoke alarm to escape. The sooner you hear an alarm, the more time you have to respond.

Additionally, the NFPA recommends replacing *all* smoke alarms every 10 years. Aging smoke alarms may not operate efficiently and often are the source for nuisance alarms. Surveys show 20% of alarms in older homes have never been replaced. Have yours?

Upgrade Today with Kidde Worry-Free Alarms

Kidde's Worry-Free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms comply with this law. Equipped with a 10-year sealed-in lithium battery and location-specific features, each smoke alarm is designed to make it simple to pick the right alarm for the right location. Install Worry-Free alarms and you won't hear those annoying low battery chirps or deal with the hassle of replacing batteries for a decade. For more information, visit www.kidde.com