

Replace Your Smoke Alarm Every 10 Years

Only working smoke alarms save lives

All smoke alarms need to be replaced EVERY 10 years.

Smoke alarms are manufactured to Australian Standard 3786 which specifies an effective life of 10 years.

After 10 years smoke alarms may not operate effectively due to dust build up, insects, airborne contaminants and electrical corrosion. They must be replaced every 10 years.

Mains powered (hard wired) smoke alarms need to be replaced by a licensed electrician.

DFES recommends you replace your smoke alarm with a photoelectric smoke alarm. Photoelectric smoke alarms are considered superior to ionisation technology in providing early warning in a residential house fire.

If you are selling your house, transferring ownership, renting or hiring then you are required by law to install mains powered (hard wired) smoke alarms. You may be fined by local government for not complying with your legal responsibility.

All smoke alarms have a date of manufacture or an expiry date. These may be part of the batch or serial number located on the smoke alarm. Contact the smoke alarm manufacturer or supplier with these details if you are not sure of the age of your smoke alarm.

If a date cannot be found and you do not know when the alarm was installed, it is time to replace your smoke alarm.

Disposing of smoke alarms in Western Australia

- Photoelectric smoke alarms can be disposed of in domestic rubbish.
- Individual ionisation smoke detectors can be safely disposed of in domestic rubbish. When more than ten ionisation smoke detectors are collected together for bulk disposal, they must be treated as radioactive waste. For information concerning the disposal of larger amount of radioactive materials, please contact the Radiation Health Section of the Health Department of Western Australia – telephone (08) 9346 2260.



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In the event of a fire

- Crawl low under smoke.
- Assist or alert any people in danger, but only if it is safe to do so.
- Go to your safe meeting place, such as your letter box.
- Call **000** (triple zero).
- Wait for firefighters to arrive.
- Do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances.

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**

