

Fact Sheet: Maryland's Updated Smoke Alarm Law

The law, signed in 2013, is part of the Public Safety Article, Sections 9-101—9-109. More information can be found by following the link below:

http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/Chapters_noln/CH_594_sb0969e.pdf

The requirements became effective January 1, 2018.

Who?

This law affects everyone in Maryland.

What?

9-volt (battery powered) alarms must immediately be replaced by long-life, sealed alarms that have a hush feature. Hard-wired alarms that are under 10 years of age do not have to be replaced.

After an alarm (any type, wired, or wireless) reaches 10 years of age (based on the manufacturer's date) it must be replaced. Hard-wired alarms must be replaced with another hard-wired alarm.

Where?

There should be a smoke alarm on every level of the dwelling and in each bedroom.

When?

The law went into effect on January 1, 2018. All rental homes under jurisdiction of the Town should be up to date on the new requirements, as rentals will be inspected on such this Spring.

Why/How?

Smoke alarms are available at most "big box" stores and online retailers. Please follow these regulations. Not only is it the law, but it makes your home safer for you and your family.

Homes built before 07/01/1975
Battery alarms should be upgraded to long-life.

Homes built 07/01/1975-06/30/1990
Alarms should be replaced by AC powered alarms once older than 10 years.

Homes built after 01/01/1989
Must have at least 1 AC-powered alarm on each level. Alarms must be interconnected.