



MARYLAND'S UPDATED SMOKE ALARM LAW WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



where

In Maryland, legislation was signed in 2013 with a phased-in implementation period for those affected to provide sufficient time to comply with the new law.

when

This new law goes into effect on January 1, 2018.

what

The law requires the replacement of battery-only operated smoke alarms with 10-year, long-life battery smoke alarms with a silence/hush button feature.

why

The Smoke Alarm Law creates a transition away from 9-volt battery-only smoke alarms in an effort to achieve more reliable smoke alarm coverage in older dwellings.

who

Smoke alarms that are battery-operated and presently exist by code or in locations where there are no smoke alarms present. It is never acceptable to remove required hard-wired smoke alarms and replace them with any type of battery-only smoke alarm.

also

Maryland's Smoke Alarm Law also requires the replacement of ALL smoke alarms – hard-wired and battery-operated – after 10 years from the manufacturer's date on the back of the alarm. If the date cannot be found, the alarm is most likely outdated and needs to be replaced.

EXISTING HOMES

Smoke alarm requirements vary based on when the home was built. Specific statutory and code requirements can be found on our website at www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe or by calling 311.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

New construction in Maryland has been updated and corresponds with the International Residential Code and NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. An AC powered, battery back-up smoke alarm is required in every bedroom, in the common area outside of bedrooms and on every level of the home. ALL required smoke alarms must be interconnected.

Smoke alarms are required to be located outside all sleeping areas and on every level of the home, including the basement (finished or unfinished). For homes built since 1994, smoke alarms are required inside bedrooms. For maximum protection, smoke alarms should be installed in all bedrooms, regardless of the year of construction.

Maryland's new Smoke Alarm Law is part of the Public Safety Article, Sections 9-101 through 9-109.

HOMES BUILT BEFORE JULY 1, 1975

Battery-operated smoke alarms must be replaced or upgraded with 10-year, long-life sealed smoke alarms.

HOMES BUILT BETWEEN JULY 1, 1975 AND JUNE 30, 1990

Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years of service and be AC powered with a battery back-up.

HOMES BUILT AFTER JANUARY 1, 1989

Homes are required to have at least one hard-wired, AC powered smoke alarm on every level, including the basement. Units must be interconnected so the activation of one will activate them all.



Call 311 for a **FREE** Home Safety Check

SCOTT E. GOLDSTEIN
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www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe