

Dispose of Smoke Detectors Properly



Two common types of smoke detectors are found in residential homes. The two types of smoke detectors are ionization and photoelectric detectors. Ionization smoke detectors contain a very minute amount of radioactive material known as Americium 241. Photoelectric-type smoke detectors do not contain any radioactive material. The amount of radioactive material contained in ionization smoke detectors is so small it does not pose a risk to human health. If the detector contains radioactive material, it is required by law to have a warning label on the body of the detector. Look for the label on the back of the detector facing the mounting base.



The label may have the international symbol for radiation (as shown). If the smoke detector does not include either the warning or the radiation symbol on the label, and if there is no evidence the label has been removed or destroyed, it is safe to assume the device does not contain any radioactive material. If the label is missing or destroyed, treat the device as if it is an ionization unit. These detectors do not last forever, and at some point they need to be disposed. Proper disposal of ionization units is described below. Some state and local laws and regulations prohibit the disposal of

ionization smoke detectors in the municipal waste stream. For this reason, smoke detectors containing radioactive material should be returned to the manufacturer for disposal. If the manufacturer refuses to accept the return of the smoke detector, check with your local governmental agency.

When returning a detector to the manufacturer, include a note indicating the detector is to be disposed of, and mail it to the address listed on the back of the detector. The following smoke detector manufacturers/distributors will take back their smoke detectors:

Manufacturer/Distributor	Phone Number	Address for Return	Notes
American Sensors/Dicon Global	800-387-4219	Call to receive a number and return information	Accepts Dicon Global American Sensors brands only
Firex	800-445-8299	Firex c/o Disposal 28C Leigh Fisher Blvd. El Paso, TX 79906	Website address: www.firexsafety.com
First Alert/BRK	800-323-9005 Ext. 2	Customer Service Dept 3920 Enterprise Court Aurora, IL 60504	Accepts up to four device of First Alert/BRK brand at a time. Call ahead for mailing instructions.
G.E. Security/ESL	888-437-3287	12345 Southwest Levetan Dr. Tualatin, OR 97062	Will accept G.E. Security/ESL brands only
Honeywell	800-328-5111	Returned Goods, Honeywell, Inc. Dock 4-MN10-3860 1985 Douglas Drive North Golden Valley, MN 55422	Accepts Honeywell smoke detectors only www.eccustomer care.com
Kidde	800-880-6788 Ext. 1	1016 Corporate Park Dr. Mebane, NC 27302	Will only accept Kidde brand smoke detectors
Sears	local number	Some Sears locations are designated collection sites	Call to find out if local Sears will accept smoke detectors
System Sensors	800-736-7672 Ext. 1	Call to receive a reference number and return information	Will accept "System Sensor" brand only. Asking payment of \$3.00 for each detector to cover recycling costs.
USI Electric/Universal	800-390-4321 Ext. 1	Attention: Disposal Dept. 7A Gwynns Mill Court Owings Mills, MD 21117	Return only detectors that say "ionization" on the back. Only USI Electric or Universal brand detectors accepted. Enclose a note that the smoke detector is being returned for recycling.

For other brands:

<http://www.curieservices.com/>