

Changing Your Smoke Alarm Battery

Only working smoke alarms save lives

Whether you need to change your smoke alarm battery will depend on the type of smoke alarm you have.

Is it time to change your battery?

Smoke alarms powered by 9V ALKALINE BATTERY require you to replace the battery every year. DFES recommends you change your battery on April 1st.

Smoke alarms powered by a 10 YEAR NON-REMOVABLE LITHIUM BATTERY do not require you to change the battery each year. Do not try to remove these batteries.

MAINS POWERED (HARD WIRED) SMOKE ALARMS are powered by an external power source. These alarms also have a battery back-up for periods of mains power outage. Many models have a rechargeable (non-removable) battery and do not need replacement. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions to see if you need to change the battery. Where you need to change the battery, DFES recommends you do this on April 1st.

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You should know...

- Smoke alarms will make a 'beep' or 'chirping' sound when they have a low battery or are faulty.
- Mains powered smoke alarms may also make this low battery warning after periods of extended mains power outage. If this happens and your smoke alarm has a replaceable battery, you will need to change your battery.
- Not all smoke alarms need their battery replaced. Smoke alarms with a non-replaceable battery may have a warning that the battery is not replaceable. Always check the manufacturer's instructions before replacing the battery.
- Mains powered smoke alarms are required to have a green "Power ON" LED indicator. This will light up when the alarm is connected to mains power.
- All smoke Alarms also have a red light that flashes momentarily every 40-60 seconds to visually indicate they are operating. This same red light flashes continuously when the Smoke Alarm has been activated. If there are interconnected smoke alarms the fast flashing red light will indicate which smoke alarm initiated the alarm.
- Always test that your smoke alarm is operating after replacing the battery by holding down the test button until you hear a loud alert tone. All smoke alarms require regular maintenance. Refer to Fact sheet 4 – Smoke Alarm Maintenance for further information.
- All smoke alarms require replacement every 10 years.



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**

