

Replace smoke alarm batteries

Smoke detectors are worthless if they aren't powered. If you have older model smoke detectors in your home, they may rely exclusively on batteries for power (usually a 9-volt). If this is the case, use the beginning of Daylight Savings Time (DST) as a reminder to replace your smoke detector batteries with fresh ones. This year, DST begins March 11.

Many newer model smoke detectors are powered by 10-year batteries and, by design, must be discarded after 10 years. In some homes, smoke detectors are powered by the home's electricity and have a removable, back up battery for use during power outages. If you have this type, replace your back up battery twice a year to ensure you will have the protection you need in the event of a fire.