

Upgrading Smoke Detectors When You Remodel

IT'S THE LAW



BROTHERS
SERVICES COMPANY

The intent of the **Maryland's Smoke Alarm Law** is to transition away from smoke alarms with 9V batteries and to achieve as much reliable smoke alarm coverage as possible in older dwellings. Smoke alarm technology has advanced over the years and the updates to Maryland's Smoke Alarm Law are part of a nationwide trend to ensure new and replacement smoke alarms have the most effective technology available. At Brothers, we treat all customers as if they were our own family and we treat each project as if it were our own. That is why we are committed to keeping your home safe by following all laws and building codes in effect at the time of your remodel. Please see below for the exact smoke alarm requirements based on the year your home was built.

PREVIOUS CODE



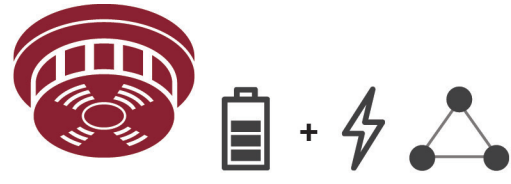
Homes built before July 1, 1975

For homes constructed prior to July 1, 1975, a smoke alarm was required outside each sleeping area. The smoke alarm could be battery operated or hardwired.



Homes built between July 1, 1975 and January 1, 1989

For homes constructed between July 1, 1975 and June 30, 1990, an AC-powered smoke alarm was required in each sleeping area.



Homes built after Jan. 1, 1989

For homes constructed after January 1, 1989 at least one hard-wired, AC-powered smoke alarm is required on every level of the home, including the basement. Units must be interconnected in order to activate any one of the required smoke alarms resulting in the sounding of all the required smoke alarms. Effective July 1, 1990, all AC powered smoke alarms are required to have a battery back-up.

CURRENT CODE

Smoke alarms will be upgraded when one of the following occur:

- The existing alarm is more than 10 years old and/or malfunctions
- Alterations, repairs or additions requiring a building permit occur
- 1+ sleeping rooms are added/created in existing dwellings

Smoke alarms shall be hard-wired units except sealed battery-operated smoke alarms with long-life batteries and silent/hush features may be installed in locations of the home where hard-wired smoke alarms did not previously exist.

CURRENT CODE

Smoke alarms shall be replaced after 10 years from date of manufacture. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

- (1) In each sleeping room;
- (2) Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms;
- (3) On each level of the home.

Smoke alarm requirements can vary by local jurisdictions or counties with additional amendments. For more information on Maryland's Smoke Alarm Law, please visit www.dllr.state.md.us/

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



3,000

An average of 3,000 Americans die each year in home fires.

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Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms.