



Smoke Alarm Update



Beginning January 1, 2015, the Florida Building Code now requires Florida homeowners that do not have hard-wired smoke detectors to **install 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms**. A hard-wired smoke detector is wired to the household electrical circuit and connected to other detectors throughout your home. The new code only requires homeowners to make the switch when replacing outdated or non-working alarms or **installing new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms**. These smoke detectors have a longer life lithium batteries inside and are tamper resistant and removes the consumers' worry about remembering when to change batteries.

The **10-year sealed battery smoke alarms** are available online and at most hardware stores averaging between \$25 and \$50. The savings in battery costs alone as well as saving lives more than justifies the cost.

Three out of five home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.

- ❗ 2007-2011 More than 37% of home fire deaths resulted from fires in which no smoke alarms were present at all.
- ❗ 23% of the deaths were caused by fires in properties in which smoke alarms were present but failed to operate.
- ❗ The risk of dying in reported home structure fires is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.
- ❗ Statistics report that 94 percent of American households have smoke detectors, but 30 percent of those alarms don't work.



When smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so, it was usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead. People are most likely to remove or disconnect batteries because of nuisance activations. Sometimes the chirping to warn of a low battery is interpreted as a nuisance alarm. With the installation of a 10 year sealed battery smoke alarm will likely reduce alarm failure rates, thus saving lives.

Smoke Alarms are required in each sleeping room and outside of the sleeping room(s)