

## Smoke Alarms

New smoke alarm requirements took effect for all homes sold in Oregon as of January 1, 2002.

### General requirements—new construction

- All ionization smoke alarms must have a hush feature.
- Battery powered alarms must be equipped with a 10-year lithium battery.
- Exempt types:
  - Photoelectric smoke alarms
  - Fire alarm systems
  - Multipurpose alarms (i.e., combination smoke/fire/carbon monoxide alarms)

### General requirements—existing homes

- Homes are required to meet the applicable requirements of the State Building Code in force at the time of construction.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms must be replaced with wired alarms that have a hush feature.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms must be equipped with a 10-year lithium battery.

### Locations

- Smoke alarms must be installed outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms must be installed on every level of a multi-story house.
- Ceiling-mounted alarms must be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall.
- Wall-mounted alarms must be installed four to 12 inches from the ceiling.
- The State Fire Marshall *recommends* installing smoke alarms in each bedroom for additional protection.

### Maintenance and replacement

- Test every smoke alarm once a month.
- Vacuum alarms monthly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Smoke alarms have a limited life span; the sensors wear out over time.
- Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.