



Westwood Fire Department  
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## 1 & 2 Family Homes Built Before 1975

- Effective December 1, 2016, 1 & 2-family homes cannot be sold with expired or out-of-date smoke alarms.
- The State Fire Code now requires all one- and two-family homes built before 1975 to have working smoke alarms that have not expired.
- Working smoke alarms installed prior to December 1, 2016 (that met previous requirements) can continue to be used until they are ten years old or have exceeded the manufacturer's recommended life, whichever occurs first.

## New Requirements When Replacing Alarms

- New alarms must be photoelectric with a hush button feature to silence nuisance alarms. Intensifying smoke will override the hush feature.
- Alarms can be photoelectric alone, or in combination with ionization technology.
- Alarms may also provide smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detection in the same device.
- All battery powered alarms must have 10-year, sealed, non-replaceable, non-rechargeable battery.
- These batteries won't ever have to be changed for the life of the smoke alarm.
- The entire unit, the smoke alarm and the battery, will need to be replaced at the end of ten years.
- The alarm will give an end-of-life warning

## Reason For The Change

- Major manufacturers of smoke alarms indicate that detectors have a service life of about ten years.
- Replacement of detectors is recommended because the sensing technology deteriorates over time.