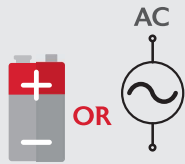


# SMOKE ALARM LAWS

## 2018



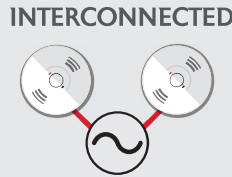
### TYPE OF ALARM(S) *The type of smoke alarm required in a dwelling depends upon the age of the property.*



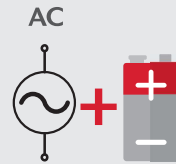
Built before **7/1/75**  
Alarm may be battery operated or AC.



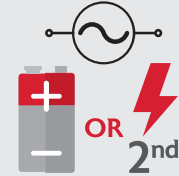
Built between **7/1/75 - 1/1/89**  
AC alarm is required.



Built between **1/1/89 - 7/1/90:**  
Alarms must be AC and interconnected to alarm simultaneously.



Built between **7/1/90 and 7/1/13**



Built or renovated after **7/1/13:** Alarms must be AC with a battery backup[1] AND configured to sound simultaneously.

### JANUARY 1, 2018 AND BEYOND

*In many ways, the law is simpler now. As of January 1, 2018, Maryland law is as follows:*

**NO ALARM (battery powered or hard-wired) may be older than 10 years from the date of manufacture.**



**9-VOLT BATTERY ALARMS ARE NO LONGER PERMITTED**

Battery-only smoke alarms:

- Powered with a sealed, long-life battery
- Silence/hush button feature



AC powered alarms less than 10 years old are still acceptable.



Additional alarms required as of January 1, 2018 (such as in a basement) may be battery-operated if they are sealed, long-life battery smoke alarms with a silence/hush button feature.



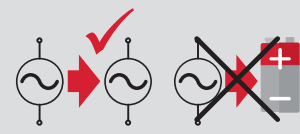
One alarm must be located on each level of the dwelling, including the basement.



One alarm must be located outside each "sleeping area."



For homes built or renovated after January 1, 2013, one alarm must be placed in each "sleeping room."



Hard-wired, AC devices must be replaced with hard-wired devices.

### CONSIDERATIONS

There are some practical considerations for you and your clients. A seller who fails to comply with the law is subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both. A listing agent representing a seller who is in violation of the law must disclose to prospective buyers that the seller is not in compliance. If a buyer's agent is aware that the seller is not in compliance with the law, the buyer's agent must disclose this fact to his or her buyer client.

[1] Maryland Code, Public Safety Article, Section 9-103(d). This Code section specifies that a smoke detector installed "as part of an approved household fire alarm system" is an acceptable alternative, provided the alarms are installed in the required locations.