



**Oregon State law (ORS 479.260) requires that when you sell your home, all smoke alarms must meet the following requirements.**

*All Ionization smoke alarms must have a hush feature and if solely battery powered must also have a ten-year battery.*

**What are the requirements of January 1, 2002?**

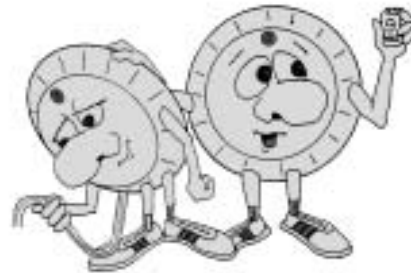
- **Tenant occupied spaces:** All tenant occupied dwellings shall have approved smoke alarms. If ionization, they shall include a hush feature and if battery-powered, they shall include ten-year batteries.
- **Sale of dwelling unit:** Prior to the sale of any dwelling or structure containing a dwelling, the dwellings shall meet the same requirements.

**What types of alarms does Oregon law require?**

- All Ionization smoke alarms sold in Oregon are required to have the hush feature. Solely battery-powered ionization alarms sold in Oregon must be packaged and sold with a ten-year battery.

**What types of alarms are exempt?**

- Photoelectric smoke alarms are exempt from these requirements.
- Multipurpose alarms; such as, combination smoke and fire/carbon monoxide alarms, are exempt from these requirements.
- **Fire alarm systems** do not require the hush feature and ten-year battery.

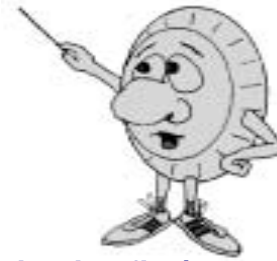


**What about 110 v (hard-wired) smoke alarms? Do they have to have the hush feature and ten-year battery back up?**

- All ionization smoke alarms not connected to a commercial fire alarm system, whether 110 v (hard-wired) or solely battery operated, need to have a hush feature.
- Only ionization smoke alarms that are solely battery operated need to have a ten-year battery.

**Can I replace my 110 v (hard-wired) smoke alarms with solely battery operated smoke alarms?**

No, you can not replace a 110 v (hard-wired) system with a solely battery operated smoke alarm(s).



**Do combination fire/burglar alarm systems meet Oregon hush feature requirements?**

- Yes, if they can be silenced at a control unit (panel).

**How do I tell if my smoke alarms meet the Oregon requirements?**

- If you have an ionization alarm(s), it must have a hush feature, and if the ionization alarm(s) is solely battery operated it must have a ten-year battery.

**What is the difference between smoke alarms and smoke detectors?**

- **Smoke alarms** are defined as self-contained, single or multiple-station smoke-sensing devices. Smoke alarms may include two or more single station units wired to operate in conjunction with each other.
- **Smoke detectors** are defined as smoke-sensing devices that are not self-contained, that are intended for use in conjunction with a fire alarm system control panel.



**What is the difference between an ionization alarm and a photoelectric alarm?**

- **Ionization smoke alarms** contain material that ionizes the air, making an electrical path. When products of combustion enter the device, the molecules attach themselves to the ions. The change in electric current flow triggers the alarm.
- **Photoelectric smoke alarms** contain a light source and photocell, which is activated by light. Light from the bulb reflects off the smoke particles and is directed towards the photocell. The photocell is then activated to trigger the alarm.

*When properly installed and maintained both types of alarms alert you to a fire and save lives.*

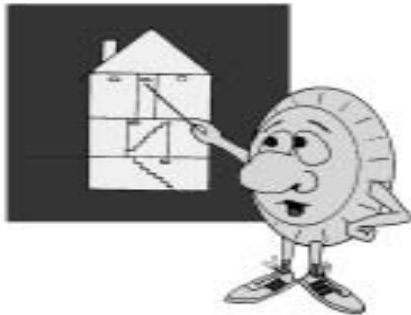


**Where must alarms be installed in a single family home?**

The minimum requirements are:

- Smoke alarms must be installed outside the sleeping area.

- If the home has more than one level a smoke alarm must be installed on each level.
- Install smoke alarms on the ceiling at least four inches from the nearest wall or high on a wall, four to 12 inches from the ceiling. The Office of State Fire Marshal recommends adding smoke alarms to each bedroom for additional protection.
- Single-family dwellings are required to meet the applicable requirements of the State Building Code in force at the time of construction.



### Do smoke alarms need to be installed in the bedrooms?

Only if required by Building Codes at the time of construction, **BUT** the Office of State Fire Marshal encourages everyone to install smoke alarms in their bedrooms to help ensure ultimate protection.

### Where must smoke alarms not be placed?

- Smoke alarms should not be installed in kitchens, bathrooms, garages or

unheated areas because moisture, frost, cooking vapors and exhaust fumes could cause the unit to sound a false alarm.

### What should I look for when purchasing an ionization smoke alarm?

- Look for an alarm that has a hush feature, a low battery warning signal, a loud alarm and if it is solely battery operated, a ten-year battery. Only purchase an alarm that has been tested by the Underwriter's Laboratories (it will have a UL symbol) or other nationally recognized testing laboratories on it.

### How do I maintain my smoke alarms?

- Smoke alarms have a limited life span. Alarms that are ten years old or older need to be replaced because the sensor wears out. (Look for the date stamp on the smoke alarm.) Test smoke alarms monthly. Vacuum your alarms monthly to remove dust and cobwebs.



## Fire Safety Starts With You

## What You Need to Know About Smoke Alarms Before You Sell Your Home



**Why Smoke Alarms?**  
Home fires are a life and death threat to everyone!

INFORMATION  
PROVIDED BY



Questions?

Contact your local fire department or  
Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal  
A division of Oregon State Police  
(503) 378-3473. Ext. 228  
[www.sfm.state.or.us](http://www.sfm.state.or.us)

Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal