

Smoke Alarms

Your Guide for Safe Disposal and Recycling in Calumet County

Types of Smoke Alarms

Photoelectric:

Photoelectric alarms are usually better for smoldering fires. These alarms use a light sensor. The light angles away from a sensor and when the smoke enters the light will reflect into the chamber then sounds the alarm.

Ionization: Ionization alarms are better for fires with flames. These alarms contain a small amount of radioactive material that connects two electrical plates. When the smoke breaks the connection the alarm sounds.

The National Fire Protection Association suggests using both alarms in your house for extra fire protection.

Ways to Dispose of Smoke Alarms

Some alarms will typically last between 8-10 years before they start to malfunction.

Once your smoke alarms start to get old and in need of a replacement they will need to be safely disposed of.

Photoelectric smoke alarms can simply be thrown away in the trash once the battery is taken out.

Ionization alarms will need to be sent to the original manufacturer.

For a list of manufactures that accept smoke alarms and where to mail them, check out the [U.S. Postal Service](#)

For information and pricing information about Curie Environmental Services go to www.curieservices.com



Community Recycling in Calumet County

For more information about our programs and events, please visit calumetreycles.com