How do smoke alarms work?

Photoelectric-type alarms aim a light source into a sensing chamber at an angle away from the sensor. Smoke enters the chamber, reflecting light onto the light sensor; triggering the alarm.

How often should I replace the battery in my smoke alarm?

No need to replace the battery as it's non-replaceable.

Why does the red light blink once every 40 seconds?

The blinking or flashing red light every 40 seconds is normal operation. This is a battery test the unit performs. When the battery is weak the unit will beep or chirp approximately once every 40 seconds. We recommend replacing the smoke alarm.

How often should I replace my smoke alarm?

Replacing smoke alarm every 10 years is recommended if the smoke alarm becomes physically damaged.

How do I find the model number/manufacture date of my smoke or CO alarm?

On the back of the alarm there is a plain white sticker with a date on it, this date is the date of manufacture.

What could be the possible causes for false alarms?

A faulty unit or premature battery failure. Smoke alarms are designed to be highly sensitive to detect potential fires early, and they can sometimes be triggered by non-emergency factors such as cooking fumes, dust, steam, or even insects.

Do I need to clean my smoke alarm?

Yes. Regular cleaning of devices assists in preventing nuisance or unwanted alarms. We recommend you vacuum the vents and surfaces using a soft brush attachment to remove dust and debris monthly following the manufacturers instructions. This simple step can significantly reduce unwanted activation and help ensure your alarms continue to operate effectively.

Why my smoke alarm is going off when there is no smoke present?

Many conditions that cause the smoke alarms to beep or chirp may also cause them to go into alarm when they sense smoke or something in the alarm chamber.

1) Age may be a factor. You should replace your alarm if it is over 10 years old. The date code can be found on the back of the alarm.

2) The alarm may be installed in a location prone to nuisance alarms. Such areas are:

– near kitchens where they may be exposed to smoke from cooking.
– near bathrooms or areas where they may be exposed to steam.
– areas that are very dusty, such as attics or garages.
– areas that are in direct airflow such as near a heating vent or return. Check the location of the smoke alarm; try re-installing it a few feet away. Nuisance alarms can also be caused by external

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contaminants.

3) There may be dust or insects in the alarm chamber. Even in clean environments dust will collect in the sample chamber. This will cause the alarm to be overly sensitive and cause it to go into alarm. Insects can have the same effect and the movement of the insects in and out of the chamber will cause the alarm to go into alarm. If the unit seems to go into alarm mostly at night, it is probably due to insects.

4) Cleaning solvents (particularly ammonia), Latex paints, and high dust conditions associated with construction can cause the unit to go into alarm.

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