Types of Smoke Alarms and How to Test Them

10 Year Lithium Non-removable Battery Smoke Alarm

The below provides an example of a typical 10 year Lithium non-removable battery smoke alarm. These alarms are most commonly fitted to rental properties as there is no need for battery replacement.

This can be tested easily from the ground using a broom handle or similar to gently press and hold the button for 3 seconds. The alarm will turn itself off after around 5 seconds.

To remove the alarm from the ceiling, twist it anti clockwise. This will turn it off. By law, you are required to immediately replace the battery or notify your landlord of any faults as soon as possible. Failing to do this can result in potential danger to you and your household, as well as criminal penalties.

240 Volt mains powered Smoke Alarm (with a 9 volt battery backup)

This is a common example of 240 volt mains powered smoke alarm with 9 a volt battery backup. It uses electricity from the light circuit in your home and in the event of a power failure will utilise the 9 volt replaceable battery installed.

This can be tested easily from the ground using a broom handle or similar to gently press and hold the button for 3 seconds. The alarm will sound for about 5 seconds.

Most 240 volt mains powered smoke alarms with 9 a volt battery backup have a button on the side of them allowing them to open. Be careful not to use force when doing this as you will break the hinge. It is the owner's responsibility to replace the battery every 12 months for this type of alarm. If the alarm continues to make a chirping sound for longer than 1 hour please contact your property manager as soon as possible.

It is an offense to remove the battery and do nothing, you could be penalised.

9 Volt Smoke Alarm

This is an example of a 9 volt battery operated smoke alarm. It only has one source of power and will be phased out of rental properties over the next 3 years.

It is the tenant's responsibility to replace the battery for this type of alarm every 12 months. This can be tested easily from the ground using a broom handle or similar to gently press and hold the button for 3 seconds. The alarm will sound for about 5 seconds then turn off.

Most alarms will twist anticlockwise or have a button or clip on the side which will allow them to open. To replace the battery open the alarm and remove the old battery. When installing the new 9 volt battery please ensure that the terminals are located on the correct side. There will be an illustration or symbol on the alarm to show you how. Connect the alarm back to the ceiling and test the alarm using the test button. If there is a fault with the alarm please notify your property manager as soon as practical.

It is an offense to remove the battery and do nothing, you could be penalised.