



"Partnering to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions"

Northeast Resource Recovery Association, 2101 Dover Road, Epsom, NH 03234
Telephone: (603) 736-4401 or 1-800-223-0150 Fax: (603) 736-4402
E-mail: info@nrna.net Web Site: www.nrra.net

FIRE EXTINGUISHER/SMOKE DETECTOR PROPER DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Fire Extinguisher Disposal:

- 1) Contact local Fire Dept. to see if they can take them.
- 2) If fire extinguisher is to be included in scrap metal, powder must be removed and either given to local Fire Dept. or disposed of through Household Hazardous Waste Day.
- 3) Once empty, fire extinguishers *must* have valve/neck removed AND *must* have a hole BIG ENOUGH to see inside. The hole allows scrap metal vendors to see that there is no powder in the extinguisher.

II. Smoke Detector Disposal: According to *Evergreen Industries*, the most common type of smoke detector contains a small amount of Americium 241, a radioactive material. Detector companies accept returned radioactive detectors for disposal as hazardous waste. Unfortunately the companies seem to assume you'll keep the instruction booklet on hand for the entire life of the product, and don't always put good contact information on the case.

Detectors have a limited life span, usually specified at ten years. Testing your detector with actual smoke is the only way to be sure it will work when needed. The vast majority of smoke detectors are made by First Alert Corporation. Send old detectors to *First Alert, Radioactive Waste Disposal, 780 McClure Rd, Aurora, IL 60504-2495, 1-800-323-9005*. Others are made by a Canadian firm called American Sensors, dial 1-800-387-4219 for information. The companies sell detectors under many different brand names, and can dispose of any of them. Send detectors by surface mail or UPS Ground so they don't end up in an airplane.ö

Smoke Detector Disposal Information

The most common type of smoke detector used in residential homes contains a minute amount of radioactive material*. Although the amount of radioactive material contained in these detectors is so small that it does not pose a risk to human health, some localities, including Santa Barbara, do not allow them to be disposed of with municipal waste. In this case, smoke detectors that contain radioactive material can be returned to the manufacturer for disposal. When returning a smoke detector to the manufacturer, include a note that indicates that the detector is intended for disposal and mail it to the address listed on the back of the detector.

The following manufacturers/distributors of smoke detectors will take back smoke detectors that they manufacture:

MANUFACTURER/ DISTRIBUTOR	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS FOR RETURN	NOTES
AMERICAN SENSORS/ DICON	(800) 387 4219	Call to receive a reference number and return information	Accepts 'Dicon Global' and 'American Sensors' brands only.
FIREX	(800) 445-8299	Firex c/o Disposal 28 C Leigh Fisher Boulevard El Paso, TX 79906	Website address: www.firexsafety.com .
FIRST ALERT/ BRK	(800) 323-9005 ext. 2	Customer Service Department 3920 Enterprise Court Aurora, IL 60504	Accepts up to four detectors of First Alert/BRK brand at a time. Please call ahead for mailing instructions.
G.E. SECURITY/ ESL	(888) 437-3287	12345 Southwest Levetan Drive Tualatin, OR 97062	Will accept G.E. Security/ESL brands only.
HONEYWELL	(800) 328-5111	Returned Goods, Honeywell Inc. Dock 4-MN10-3860 1985 Douglas Drive North Golden Valley, MN 55422	Accepts Honeywell smoke detectors only. eccustomercare.com .
KIDDE	(800) 880-6788 ext. 1	1016 Corporate Park Drive Mebane, NC 27302	Will only accept Kidde brand smoke detectors.
SEARS	local number	Some Sears locations are designated collection sites	Call to find out if your local Sears will accept smoke detectors.
SYSTEM SENSORS	(800) 736-7672 ext. 1	Call to receive a reference number and return information	Will accept "System Sensor" brand only. Please include a payment of \$3.00 for each smoke detector mailed to cover the firm's recycling costs.
USI ELECTRIC/ UNIVERSAL	(800) 390-4321 ext. 1	Attention: Disposal Department 7A Gwynns Mill Court Owings Mills, MD 21117	Return only detectors that say "ionization" on the back. Only USI Electric or Universal brand smoke detectors accepted. Please enclose a note that indicates that the smoke detector is being returned for recycling.

**Ionization type smoke detectors contain Americium 241.
Photoelectric type detectors do not contain radioactive material.*

