

# Disposing of Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Most smoke detectors contain a small amount of Americium 241, a radioactive material. On the wall, a smoke detector is safe, but if broken open in a landfill, it can pose a health threat. All detectors that contain radioactive components must be labeled accordingly. These smoke detectors cannot be accepted at the Village Compost Site or during Hazardous Waste Collection.

Companies that manufacture detectors must accept expired units. Please refer to the following table for information regarding the disposal of smoke detectors. Please note: the US Postal Service has strict requirements regarding mailing of hazardous materials. Please consult with the USPS regarding specific requirements.

Manufacturer/Distributor	Phone Number	Address for Return	Notes
American Sensors/Dicon Global	800-387-4219	Call to receive a number and return information	Accepts Dicon Global American Sensors brands only
Firex	800-445-8299	Firex c/o Disposal 28C Leigh Fisher Blvd. El Paso, TX 79906	Website address: <a href="http://www.firexsafety.com">www.firexsafety.com</a>
First Alert/BRK	800-323-9005 Ext. 2	Customer Service Dept 3920 Enterprise Court Aurora, IL 60504	Accepts up to four device of First Alert/BRK brand at a time. Call ahead for mailing instructions.
G.E. Security/ESL	888-437-3287	12345 Southwest Levetan Dr. 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 <a href="http://www.eccustomercare.com">www.eccustomercare.com</a>
Kidde	800-880-6788 Ext. 1	1016 Corporate Park Dr. Mebane, NC 27302	Will only accept Kidde brand smoke detectors
Sears	local number	Some Sears locations are designated collection sites	Call to see if 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. Asking payment of \$3.00 for each detector to cover recycling costs.
USI Electric/Universal	800-390-4321 Ext. 1	Attention: Disposal Dept. 7A Gwynns Mill Court Owings Mills, MD 21117	Return only detectors that say "ionization" on the back. Only USI Electric or Universal brand detectors accepted. Enclose a note that the smoke detector is being returned for recycling.

Source: [http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22334/html/cover\\_025.htm](http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22334/html/cover_025.htm)

Before disposing of smoke detectors, remove any batteries. Alkaline batteries may be deposited in the trash. Lithium batteries must be brought to Hazardous Waste Collection.

Carbon monoxide detectors do not contain any hazardous materials. However, they do contain circuit boards and platinum, both of which are worth recycling. Please recycle carbon monoxide detectors at the Village Compost Site.