Smoke Detector Instructions

It is recommended that the battery in every smoke alarm be replaced at least once a year to ensure it is operating properly or any time the unit indicates that the battery is weak. The general rule is to replace the batteries when we switch to daylight savings time.

The blinking or flashing red light every 40-45 is normal operation. This is a battery test the unit performs. When the battery is weak the unit will beep or chirp approximately once a minute and the red LED will flash approximately 4 times a minute. At this time you must remove the old battery and replace it with a fresh battery of the correct type. Do not use any type of rechargeable battery. To remove battery slightly twist smoke alarm unit counter clockwise. It will detach from the ceiling. Remove the power plug from the center of the unit. Open the battery door and replace the 9v battery.

It is good practice to clean the smoke alarm when you change the battery since an accumulation of dust in the sensing chamber can cause the unit to chirp. Hold the unit on its side. There is a gap between the front cover and the back plate. Take a vacuum cleaner with a crevice tool and clean all around the gap area. Pay most attention to the sensor, which you will see in the gap area. The sensor looks like a small tin can with slots in it.

Pressing the test button reduces the sensitivity of the alarm for a period of up to 15 minutes. After this period of time the smoke alarm automatically returns to normal sensitivity. To indicate that the alarm is returning to normal sensitivity, it will sound two short beeps.

The Smoke alarm itself should be replaced every 10 years. A date code is stamped on the label attached to the back of the unit.