

# Smoke Detector/Smoke Alarm Disposal



**There are two common types of smoke detectors:**

- ❖ **Ionization detectors** have a small amount of radioactive material (Americium-241) that creates a chemical reaction with smoke.
- ❖ **Photoelectric detectors** use a laser to detect smoke. These types of detectors do not contain any radioactive material; therefore, they can be disposed of in the trash.

**Smoke detectors are not accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Smoke detectors should be sent back the manufacturer or to a reputable service for recycling and proper disposal. See below for the best options.**

## **Contact the Manufacturer:**

For more information on where and how to return the smoke detector, please look on the back of the smoke detector or refer to the manual. Some manufacturers may not accept them, or they may only accept their own brand.

## **Mail-back options:**

[Curie Environmental Services](#)

[EZ on the Earth](#)

[US Postal Service Bulletin](#)

**Disclaimer: This listing is provided as a public service by Chester County Solid Waste Authority. No companies are endorsed or recommended.**

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