

CHANGING THE BATTERY IN A SMOKE DETECTOR

If there was a fire in your house, I have every faith in you that you could alert other family members and get out of a dangerous situation. But could you do all that while you were asleep?

What about detecting carbon monoxide while you sleep, or for that matter, while you are awake. Many smoke detectors now have carbon monoxide detectors built-in. They are watching over you while you are sleeping. And the whole carbon monoxide thing kills 440 people a year. The tough thing is, carbon monoxide makes you feel sick and sleepy. So even if you are awake, you tend to go to bed.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

- Test all detectors in the house.
- Practice replacing a battery, so you will know what to do when the time comes.
- Make sure you have a spare battery on hand. If it starts bleeping one night because of an old battery, you want one handy so you can get some sleep.

So, now you understand the importance of these alarms, no good having one if we don't maintain it.

1. Dust can build up in the smoke detector. Use the hose on a vacuum cleaner and vacuum the front face to take that dust out.
2. Test your smoke detector once a month. It's easy to do, simply push and hold the button on the front. The alarm will go off for a few seconds to confirm that it is functioning correctly.

3. When the battery runs down (If you have a battery-powered version) the detector will start to bleep every few minutes. This is guaranteed to be at a super inconvenient time - like at night. There is a reason for that. At night it tends to be cooler in the house. When the temperature is lower, the power put out by a battery is less, and the detector starts to warn you of a low battery.

While smoke detectors may vary, the general procedure for changing a battery is to remove the device from the wall or ceiling, open the battery compartment, pull out the old battery, and put in a new one. Some detectors are connected by cables. These are easily disconnected when you are removing it from the wall and reconnected afterwards.

