



## HOW DO I GET RID OF IT?

The A to Z Guide for Recycling & Disposal in Pinellas County

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit>

Questions? Call Solid Waste at 464-7500.

All phone numbers are area code 727, unless otherwise indicated.

## Smoke Detectors / Carbon Monoxide Detectors

*battery-operated or electrical device used to warn occupants of  
smoke or carbon monoxide*



**These are hazardous waste. Do NOT dispose with regular trash!  
Never break open a detector unit.**

\* Smoke detectors that use **ionization sensor technology** are hazardous due to a small amount of radioactive material (Americium 241) inside.

The material can be released if the device is opened so never take a smoke detector apart or burn it in a fireplace.

Smoke detectors that use **photoelectric sensor technology** do not contain radiation.

**IMPORTANT:** A smoke or carbon monoxide detector that does not contain radiation may still be hazardous due to electronic circuit boards or rechargeable batteries.

1. **Drop off** at a Pinellas County [mobile collection](#) or the [HEC<sub>3</sub> facility](#) for recycling (free for residents).
2. **Businesses** can contact a [Chemical Recycling and Disposal Company](#). (Detectors are not accepted from businesses at the monthly [EnviroBusiness Day](#) events at the HEC<sub>3</sub> facility.)

**NOTE:** We no longer recommend mailing smoke detectors back to the manufacturer for safe disposal since many simply throw away the detectors. Because the amount of radioactive material in an ionization smoke detector is so small, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission allow individuals to legally dispose of single, household smoke detectors as ordinary trash. However, the most prudent option is to bring a smoke or carbon monoxide detector to a Pinellas County [mobile collection](#) or the [HEC<sub>3</sub> facility](#) for safe handling.