

Proper Disposal of Smoke Detectors

Buildings at Yale University may contain smoke detectors (ionization detectors) which contain a small amount of radioactive material, Americium-241 or Radium-226. A label on the back or side of the detector will alert you to the presence of a radiation source. Because of this radioactive material, the detectors must be intact. Do not disassemble and do not discard in the normal trash or through a building debris dumpster.

Smoke detectors taken out of service are to be packaged and called in to Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Affairs Section (EAS) for pickup. The smoke detectors should be packaged in a sturdy box, with the number of detectors & the words, "SMOKE DETECTORS" on the top of the box.

Once the box is full contact EAS for a pickup of the smoke detectors. Be prepared to report the number of detectors in each box and the total number of boxes for removal.

To avoid the purchase and special disposal of ionization detectors, use photoelectric whenever possible.

EAS waste pickup request line is 203 432-6545 or email waste.requests@yale.edu

Below are examples of smoke detectors found on campus.

