

# **I get a false alarm from my smoke alarm. Why does my smoke alarm sound when I can't see smoke?**

Any of the following situations can cause a false alarm from your smoke alarm:

- The cover or sensor chamber may be covered by dust or dirt. Alarms may look clean, but dust can accumulate inside the cover, even in newly built homes. Gently vacuum your smoke alarm regularly using the soft brush attachment.
- Insects may have clogged the sensor chamber. Clean the smoke alarm with the soft brush attachment on your vacuum. To prevent repeat problems, clean and treat the surrounding area with insect repellent (DO NOT SPRAY THE SMOKE ALARMS ITSELF).
- You may have experienced a power interruption. Hardwired smoke detection devices may sound briefly when power is interrupted then restored.
- If you have hardwired smoke detection devices, you may have a loose electrical connection on your AC or AC/DC smoke alarm. In AC or AC/DC smoke alarms, loose connections can intermittently disconnect power to the smoke alarm. The effect is the same as a power failure. When power is restored, the units may sound briefly.