

SMOKE ALARMS

Since the 1st of January 2014 we have attended 213 jobs concerning smoke alarms the majority of these could have been avoided if the alarms were maintained, allowing more time to deliver other essential electrical repairs.

Maintaining your smoke alarm-

Your smoke alarm is a life saving device. Spending a few minutes each month in vacuuming off any excess dust will enhance its performance and reduce the likelihood of nuisance alarms.

Vacuum up to the grill and through the slots where dust/talc etc. can enter. Wipe off with a very mildly damp cloth. Never use cleaning agents/polishes etc.

How to change the battery in your smoke alarm: -

The alarms that are in your home are usually wired into (and powered from) the mains power, but are likely to also have a built-in battery back up to power the alarm if the mains supply fails.

There are two main types of battery back-up - Rechargeable Lithium and Alkaline.

Alarms with a Rechargeable Lithium back-up will never need their battery changing as the back-up is designed to last for the lifetime of the alarm (10 years). Alarms with this type of back-up will have a sticker on the front, like that shown below.



Sticker = Rechargeable Lithium back-up

Alarms with Alkaline battery back-up will need the back-up battery changing during the life of the alarm. Typically, the battery will last around 3-4 years in standby but the alarm will beep once a minute to let you know when the battery needs changing. The battery is built-in to the back of the alarm, so the alarm will need to be removed from its base-plate (which is the only part actually fixed to the ceiling) before the battery can be changed.

More details on how to change the battery can be found here.

<http://www.aico.co.uk/How-to-change-the-battery-in-your-alarm.html>