

WHY DO SMOKE ALARMS SIGNAL FALSE ALARMS?

CONSIDER THE BELOW FACTORS THAT MAY BE CAUSING YOUR SMOKE ALARM TO FALSE ALARM OR MAKE A CHIRPING NOISE



DUST AND INSECTS

Contamination from dust build up and insects.

HINT: Legrand photoelectric smoke alarms are fitted with a sealed mesh protector for prevention of contamination. Ensure you regularly clean your smoke alarm with a cloth or wireless vacuum cleaner. An insect repellent can also be used to deter insects however, ensure to spray around and not directly at the alarm as this could cause further faults to the smoke alarm.



HEAT AND CONDENSATION

Weather conditions such as high temperatures and humidity can cause condensation and heat build-up within the alarm, therefore resulting in false alarms.

HINT: Legrand photoelectric smoke alarms have an extra coating on electronics as a prevention mechanism to humidity. If condensation is trapped within the alarm, a hair dryer can be used to dry out the moisture with warm air.



COOKING FUMES AND STEAM

Cooking fumes and steam from bathrooms and laundries can cause a smoke alarm to activate.

HINT: Install smoke alarms a minimum of 5m away from the kitchen area and avoid installing within or outside bathrooms and laundries.



AIR MOVEMENT

Sudden wind or air produced from ventilation products such as air ducts, ceiling fans or exhaust fans can set an alarm off.

HINT: Ensure smoke alarms are not installed near ventilation products within the home.



BATTERY LIFE

Loss of battery life over time may cause beeping or false alarms.

HINT: Legrand smoke alarm (Cat No. 643087) comes with a 10-year lithium battery backup for longer lasting life.



POWER ISSUES

Power shortages, unstable wires or interruptions to power can cause a smoke alarm to beep unnecessarily.

HINT: A Legrand smoke alarm EMI filter (Cat No. 643093) may assist with filtering out the interference caused by power issues.



RIPPLE CONTROL SIGNALS

Ripple frequency is a common cause of activating false alarms and usually occurs in the off-peak times of the day, early hours of the morning or late at night. In southern Queensland, Central Coast NSW and Sydney, electricity suppliers install an off-peak signal to assist in the control of devices such as hot water systems and street lighting.

HINT: A ripple signal filter may be installed to discharge the signal from the mains power.



ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE (EMI)

Smoke alarms are designed to filter external EMI signals, however some forms of EMI can still affect performance. Smoke alarms are commonly installed on circuits shared with other devices that cause electrical interference within the circuit. This electrical noise and electromagnetic interference may cause the smoke alarm to false trigger.

HINT: Avoid installing a smoke alarm too close to an electrical noise source (<1m). If possible, install the smoke alarm on a separate circuit to all other electrical circuits. A Legrand smoke alarm EMI filter (Cat No. 643093) will filter out this signal interference.

'False' Alarms – An incorrect warning activation of an alarm when particles or combustion similar to smoke are detected such as electrical faults or surges.

'Chirping' noises – Sudden short tones from an alarm, that may suggest a fault in the mechanism or a low back up battery.



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Legrand Australia
1300 369 777
www.legrand.com.au