

Smoke Alarm Tenant Tips



WHAT CAUSES FALSE ALARMS?

Below are the most common triggers and troubleshooting tips on how to fix it.

POWER ISSUES

Unstable power or power interruptions can cause electrical spikes in the circuit, this may cause the smoke alarm to beep or alarm for a short period of time.

Tenant Tip Wait for the power surges to finish as the smoke alarms should reset. You could also try resetting the power by turning the lighting circuit on and off in the electricity box.

AIR MOVEMENT

High air movement can cause the smoke alarm to false alarm.

Tenant Tip Ensure that portable fans, heaters, radiators and air conditioning ducts are away from smoke alarms.

RIPPLE FREQUENCY

In some areas of Sth Qld, Central Coast NSW and Sydney, electricity suppliers are injecting an off-peak signal into the network to remotely control hot water systems and street lighting. This usually occurs in the early hours of the morning and can sometimes set off smoke alarms.

Tenant Tip Take note of the times this is happening. If this beeping is occurring at a similar time each day/night this could be the cause.

INSECTS + DUST

Insect and dust are common causes of false alarms.

Tenant Tip Clean/vacuum your smoke alarm to remove any loose dust or dirt that may be inside the unit. You could spray the base plate using insect repellent to deter insect (don't spray directly at alarm).

HIGH HUMIDITY

Water vapours can develop inside the smoke sensor causing smoke alarms to react the same way as it does smoke. Once humidity reaches 85%, false alarms could frequently occur.

Tenant Tip In high humidity, use a hair dryer to blow warm air through the smoke alarm to assist with drying out any moisture build up.

STEAM

Steam from bathrooms and laundries can cause alarms to activate.

Tenant Tip Ensure you close the doors when showering to avoid steam and humidity triggering off the alarms.

COOKING FUMES

Cooking fumes can cause a smoke alarm to activate especially when the smoke alarm is located too close to the kitchen.

Tenant Tip Alarms that are sensitive to cooking fumes and toasters can be a real issue. Try moving the location of the toaster, use the exhaust fan when cooking and/or open windows and doors. Use the hush button on the alarm to disable for 10 minutes until the cooking fumes disappear.

WEAK BATTERIES

Weak batteries will cause beeping and false alarms.

Tenant Tip If this occurs during a tenancy, replace with a new battery. Always use good quality, reliable batteries and ensure that they are inserted the correct way with firm contact on the battery terminals.

TENANT SUPPORT

If you are still experiencing issues please contact your property manager to arrange an inspection. Alternatively, call our 24/7 phone support line on **1300 552 661** and one of our electricians can help.