

Media Release



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Fire safety has an expiration date too

Master Electricians across Australia are calling on residents to go beyond simply changing the batteries in their smoke alarms on 1 April.

Instead, homeowners should also check the age of their smoke alarms, and where necessary have a new system installed.

Master Electricians Australia CEO Malcolm Richards said people needed to be aware that just like batteries, smoke alarms also have an expiration date.

“Master Electricians and alarm manufacturers both recommend residents replace their home’s smoke alarms at least every 10 years,” Mr Richards said.

“Changing your smoke alarm batteries annually is a good idea, but the quality and reliability of the alarm decreases with time. Also, the gradual build-up of dust inside the alarm affects the reliability of its internal electronics,” he said.

Mr Richards is also urging renters to check the manufacturer’s expiry date on their installed smoke alarms and insist they be replaced if they have expired.

“People should never assume that just because there is a smoke alarm on the roof that the smoke alarm is still functioning effectively. As it gets older, it may not be,” he said.

Mr Richards said residents who relied only on battery-powered smoke alarms should upgrade to more reliable mains-powered devices.

“There are two kinds of residential smoke alarms available: ionisation and photoelectric smoke alarms. Many homes have only ionisation smoke alarms installed, which are easily triggered by toasters and candles.

“Photoelectric smoke alarms are hard-wired into your home’s electrical system. They are programmed to detect smoke caused by smouldering fires, and are less susceptible to false alarms.

“They are more reliable, they perform better and they are more likely to save your life when you need them to.

“A Master Electrician is able to check the performance of your smoke alarms, ensure they comply with Australian standards and upgrade them if necessary.”

Master Electricians are accredited to provide the highest levels of service and quality, and must offer a 12-month warranty on their labour.

Visit www.masterelectricians.com.au for more information.

Media inquiries: David Melloy, Executive Manager Marketing 1300 889 198.