Fire Alarm System – what to do

About the fire alarm system

The fire alarm system installed in your property is made by AICO, the European market leading home safety system manufacturer. These systems are used by numerous UK housing organisations and councils across England and Scotland. Among others, these systems have won awards from the National Housing Federation and Fire Industry Association. The equipment meets all relevant British Standards Institution (BSI) criteria.

Looking after the fire alarm system

These alarms are intended to save your life in the event of a fire, but to do this effectively they need to be looked after. That means they should be tested every month, and the alarms should be hoovered gently with a soft brush every month to remove dust.

We hoover the devices gently to remove dust in order to ensure dust does not build up inside the alarms. While the alarms can compensate for dust build up over time, dust pollution can cause the alarms to go off unnecessarily. So, they must be gently hoovered. If you have work done in your property that raises dust, such as carpentry or carpet fitting, it is essential to hoover the systems to prevent dust build up.

The important thing is that you should gently hoover the alarms with a soft brush every month.

Testing your fire alarm system

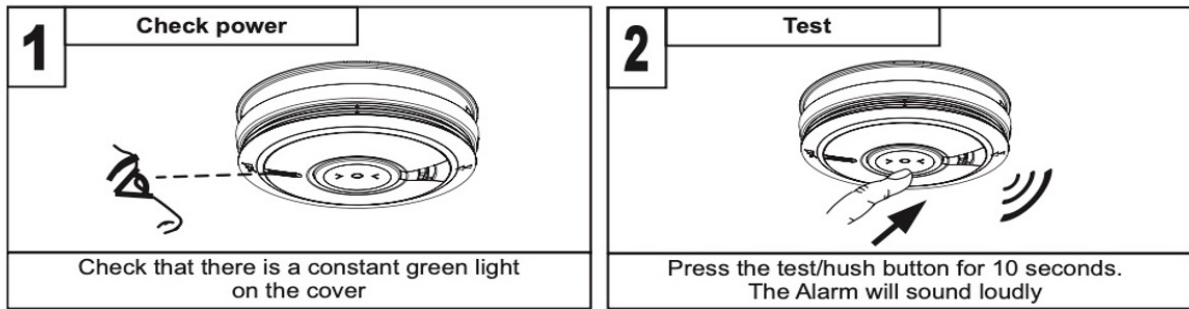The charts below show you how to test your fire alarm system. We advise testing them each month.

Frequent testing of all your alarms is required to ensure they are working correctly.

Test the alarms:
- Once each month.
- After any long holidays.
- After any household electrical works in your property.

When testing, check the green LED power indicator is on continuously, and ensure there are no green, yellow, or red LED flashing on your unit.

Inspecting and Testing proceedure

1 Check power	2 Test
Check that there is a constant green light on the cover	Press the test/hush button for 10 seconds. The Alarm will sound loudly

How to test your alarms

Monthly checks

- Press the test/hush button for up to ten seconds to ensure the alarm sounds. This tests the sensor, electronics, and sounder are working. The alarm will stop once you release the button.

- Your interconnected alarms will also begin to sound once you press the test button – they should go off within ten seconds of the first alarm sounding.

- Once you release the test/hush button the local alarm will stop sounding immediately and interconnected alarms will stop making a noise 3-4 seconds later.

Annual check

Once a year you should also check the mains battery back-up is working. To do so:

- Turn off the power at your fuse board and check the green LED lights are still on – you should see a flash every 48 seconds, which shows the alarm is using backup battery power.
- While mains power remains off you should test the alarm as described above.
- Once that test is complete, wait another three minutes to find out if any of the alarms in your system emit any fault chirps of a yellow LED indicator flashes.
- Once you have tested the alarm, switch your mains power back on.

What do the bleeps mean?

The following bleeps indicate different issues, such as low battery, sensor fault, or end-of-life:

- **Full alarm sound**: A smoke or heat alarm that sounds a full alarm could indicate a fire. You should evacuate the property and make sure there is no fire before returning.

- **Single beep**: A regular single beep from a smoke or heat alarm could indicate a low battery or that the detector should be replaced.

- **Irregular beep**: An irregular beep from a smoke or heat alarm could indicate a problem.

- **Two short beeps**: Ionization and heat alarms (EI 180, 181, 183, and 184) may make two short beeps about a second apart after the hush period.

- **Flashing LED lights**: The color and frequency of flashing LED lights can indicate different issues:
  - **Red LED flashing**: The alarm may have alarmed previously in the last 24 hours.
  - **Amber LED flashing three times every 40 seconds**: The alarm may be at the end of its life.
  - **Amber LED flashing twice every 40 seconds**: The alarm may have a sensor fault or a low battery.
  - **Amber LED flashing**: The base may be in House Code mode.
- **Beeping for over 20 minutes**: The battery may need to be replaced.

You can test your Aico alarms using the test button on the front of the alarm. You can also use the Aico AudioLINK app to check the battery and sensor status, alarm activation, and more.

Don't forget

- Hoover your alarm gently with a soft brush to mitigate against dust build up – particularly after any dust-creating work in your home.
- Test your alarm each month.
- If your alarm develops a fault, contact maintenance.