



Changing elements

Our top loading kilns have different sub frames with the electrical components in. If you would like instructions on how to access this, please send us a photograph.

Element replacement should be carried out by a Northern Kilns qualified engineer, an electrician or other competent person. Elements are not guaranteed if someone other than a Northern Kilns qualified engineer has fitted them.

We recommend fitting a full new set of elements and a new contactor when elements are reaching the end of their life. Fitting odd elements as and when the elements expire, is false economy. Putting a new element in with old can be compared to putting a new battery in with old, where the new battery has to produce more power because of the failing of the others, thus the life drastically decreases.

We design our kilns to make element changing simple for a competent person.

Removing the old elements

1. Unplug or isolate all power to the kiln. Check with a tester that the kiln has no power to it.
2. Remove the panel to allow access to the element connections (get in touch with us and send a picture for further advice).
3. Unscrew electrical connection block where the element tail goes into; and also the connector adjoining the next element. Pull free tails and snip with cutters.
4. From inside kiln chamber you'll need to pull element free (opposite to where you've just cut.) You may need to remove old pins from the element/brickwork first. Once, you've done this, remove the element.
5. If you've had a burnt out element (molten element) or there is any shale in the brickwork groove, this needs to be removed prior to fitting the new element. The groove should be scraped clear and then hoovered. If the element has melted into the brickwork it is imperative this is removed. If left in the brickwork it can damage the new element if not break it on first firing.

Fitting the new elements

The new element may need adjustment to fit snugly into the chamber groove. Long pin nose pliers are the best to do this job. The hair pin or U of the element may need to be opened up or closed a bit using the pin nose pliers, to fit snugly in the groove.

1. First push the tails of the element through the small holes from the inside the kiln into the electrical chamber.
2. Place the opposite end, the hair pin or U, into the groove where it should sit. From the tail and hair pin, gently work the rest of the element into the groove. The element should be a push / compression fit into the groove.
3. A MΩ test meter can be used at this point to make sure that the element is not touching any of the body structure.



4. Reconnect the tails to the relevant connectors.
5. You can now pin the elements in place, if the old pins are clean, these are fine to re-use, alternatively, you can order some from us or use any excess element wire you may have to make your own. It must be element wire that you use, anything else will melt.
6. Check all wiring is safe and secure and away from hot surfaces when replacing the front electrical box. Check no wires are compressed or trapped.
7. The kiln can then be reconnected or turned on at the isolator.
8. Perform the relevant electrical tests on the kiln.

Important things to note:

The elements are flexible until they have been fired, after this they are extremely fragile. It is our practise to take the new elements up to 200°C before firing.