

Replacing Kiln Elements

This advice is a general recommendation for all kilns but please refer to the manual for your own kiln for specific advice as components and design of wiring will vary.

1. Firstly, and most important - ensure the power is turned off at the isolator and the mains breaker before opening the back of the kiln.
2. Disconnect and replace each element at a time so that you have an original element connection to reference for the correct position of isolators, washers and nuts on the element and power wires. It is a good idea to photograph the connection before you start.
3. It is most important to ensure that the power line does not touch the body of the kiln and that all wires are not pinched when closing the wiring box cover.
4. Offer the new elements to the element groove, you may have to manually stretch the element so that it is the same length as the brick groove.
5. Be careful not to over-stretch or the element will come out of the groove.
6. Be careful to ensure the element is not too short, this can also cause the element to come out of the element groove.
7. Make all of the connections of the power line to the elements as tight as you can, loose connections will cause arcing where power jumps the gap, this will burn out the connection at that point. The isolators hold the connection assembly in place and keep the power line and elements away from the kiln body, you will see that they are quite loose, some are made of porcelain so if they are tightened, they will break.
8. Having completed the installation do a test, tuck a small piece of newspaper, (not glossy paper which contains china clay and will leave a sediment) under each element and turn the kiln on full power for 10/15 minutes. If any paper does not burn or scorch there is something wrong - re-check the connections. Any scorch marks on the kiln bricks will disappear in the first firing.

If you require further advice don't hesitate to contact our technical department:
technical@potclays.co.uk.