

Installing a Ring Doorbell

A Ring Doorbell 2 was used to trial this installation guide. They came with a number of components:

- A selection of mounting screws and rawl plugs (anchors in US parlance and described as such by Ring) for wood and walls
- A charging cable for the (one) battery
- A screwdriver / socket tool to fit the mounting screws and the battery security screw (newer versions don't have the latter)
- A converter mount from the original ring doorbell (newer versions don't have this)
- 2 'wedges': one to tilt the doorbell horizontally and one vertically (newer versions don't have this)
- A diode cable extender for the existing doorbell wiring (newer versions don't have this). The later versions of the Ring Doorbell 2 have the diode built in.

Instructions on how to mount the doorbell

Charge the doorbell before installation. This takes around an hour using the USB charging cable provided. A power supply is not provided; you will need a USB power adapter or a 13-amp socket with USB port(s) or a computer.

To set up a Ring Doorbell 2 you will need an email address as part of creating an account and the sign-up process and a smart phone with a QR code scanner (available as a default on many phones).

As part of the set up, you link to an Amazon account. If you are installing a Ring doorbell and will link it to an Amazon Echo(s), create the Amazon account first if you don't already have one.

How long does it take? The Ring doorbell set up is around the 30 minutes (they often software up date as part of the installation). Mounting the doorbell on wood or a wall is a matter of four fixings but you do need to give the mounting position some thought and use the wedges if required. Allow around an hour. We have also mounted on aluminium doors successfully (yes the WiFi did work). If you are connecting to an existing powered doorbell, then this will need to be taken into account. If you are providing a separate power feed for the doorbell (generally recommended and enables the illumination on the doorbell so it can be seen at night by visitors) then it's a case of planning where the feed will come from and getting a cable installed. You will need:

- A power supply (AC, 8-24v, preferably 18VA plus)
- A surface mounted backing box and blanking cover for the 25 Ohm 50 watt drop resistor (we are dubious about the need for 50 watts but that is what is recommended).

- Cable (e.g. telephone cable) and cable clips.

Refer to:

- <https://support.ring.com/hc/en-gb/articles/115003495766-How-to-Connect-Your-Ring-Video-Doorbell-2-Directly-to-a-Low-Voltage-Transformer-Without-a-Pre-existing-Doorbell>
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Resistor-Aluminum-Wirewound-Resistors-suitable/dp/B07WPC6NCT/ref=alp_dpwidget_a_w_?th=1&psc=1&smid=ATRZDKK6IQP1L

Some installations with cable running can take 4 to 5 hours.

To link your Ring Doorbell 2 to one or more Amazon Echos follow this link:

- <https://www.androidcentral.com/how-use-amazon-echo-show-ring-doorbell>

You will need email and access to your Amazon and Ring accounts to do this. It takes a few minutes. You probably want to change the doorbell sound from default if the person who will be using it is deaf in anyway. Choose one that goes on for longer e.g. Clock Strikes.

Note: once installed the Settings for any camera will provide details on the device status including power and signal strength - look under Device Health.

In terms of signal level Ring use a Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) measurement. You can see your devices RSSI in the device health section of your Ring app. Open the Ring app, select the desired device then 'Device Health'. In general terms:

- -70 dBm is OK and is stated to be the minimum signal strength required
- -80 dBm is the minimum signal strength for basic connectivity. Connectivity may be unreliable or it can take longer to connect to live view.
- -90 dBm is generally unusable.

Remember these are 'negative' numbers as they are signal loss. The lesser the loss the better which means -70 is better than -90.

Links in this article were correct at the time of writing but may change!