

CMOS Battery

The CMOS battery is what keeps all of your settings such as boot options, date/time, and hard drive settings current. The CMOS battery is shaped like an oversized watch battery, and resides in a socket directly attached to the motherboard.

Replacing

1. **Turn Off Computer** - You **NEVER** want to remove any device from your computer without first turning off your computer, and you especially **NEVER** want to open your case with the power on. Any sort of electric shock (static electricity included) may render any device, or the whole computer, completely useless. Circuit boards are very sensitive devices, and if handled inappropriately, they can easily be broken.
2. **Turn Off/Unplug Power Supply** - This step goes hand-in-hand with the previous step. Although it may appear that your computer is off when you turn it off, the power supply is still on, and may still be providing power to many areas of your computer. There should be a switch on the back of your computer next to where the power cord is located; turn it off. Now unplug the power cord from either the outlet or the back of your computer. Your computer is now completely powered down.
3. **Open Case** - It seems that every computer you encounter has a different method for removing the outer casing; some you have to remove screws, other you merely have to push a button. This, undoubtedly, you will have to look inside your reference manual to accomplish.
4. **Attach Static Wrist Band (If Applicable)** - Again, circuit boards are sensitive devices, and the static electricity in your fingers can arch to the circuit boards and render them completely useless. In order to prevent this from happening you need to ground your body. The easiest way to do this is to buy a static electricity wrist band (they are cheap), and attach one end to your wrist and the other to any metal surface, including the computer case. The other method is to make sure that you always have one hand placed on a piece of metal at all times; this however means that you would only have one hand to work with.
5. **Remove CMOS Battery** - The CMOS battery is very easy to remove. There should be a metal arm over the top of the battery; this should easily swing around its pivot to a position where it no longer covers the battery. Now you should be able to lift up the battery using your fingers; you may need to use a flat head screwdriver, but be sure you do not create a connection to any other place on the motherboard, or scratch the surface of the motherboard.
6. **Insert New CMOS Battery** - It is very important that your replacement battery is the exact same model of the one that you removed from the motherboard; you can verify this by looking at the number etched on the top of the battery. You should be able to easily place the new battery into the now empty socket. If the battery does not fall into place on its own, lightly push on the top with just enough pressure to force the battery into place. Slide the metal arm back over the battery.
7. **Close Case** - Secure the case back in place.
8. **Turn On Machine** - Turn on the machine...once you removed the CMOS battery, all of the CMOS settings were reset back to default.

9. **Set Time/Date in BIOS** - Since all of your CMOS settings were reset back to normal, you will need to reset your Date and Time on your computer along with all of the drive and integrated peripheral settings.

Verify Integrity - You will need to keep an eye on your computer's date and time in order to verify that you inserted your battery correctly (simply look at it when you restart your computer). If the date and time show incorrectly after you restart the machine, you may want to reopen your computer and verify that the battery is installed correctly.