

How to reset a circuit breaker

the family
handyman

Find solutions for any home problem at familyhandyman.com

1 Don't worry! All the dangerous stuff is inside the panel. You can't get a shock by flipping breaker switches.

2 Find the tripped breaker

Look for the breaker switch that's out of line with the others. It will be about halfway between the "off" and "on" positions. You may have to look closely to spot it.

3 Reset the breaker

To reset a breaker, move the switch all the way to its "off" position, then back to "on." You might hear a few beeps from smoke detectors and appliances when you turn the power back on, but don't worry; that's normal.

4 If it trips again

The circuit is probably overloaded. To decrease the load, try unplugging or switching off items that are using the circuit. If that doesn't work, there may be a problem with your electrical system. If you don't have the know-how to troubleshoot your wiring, call an electrician.

