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To Helpful Hints and Tips from Thomas Edison Electric

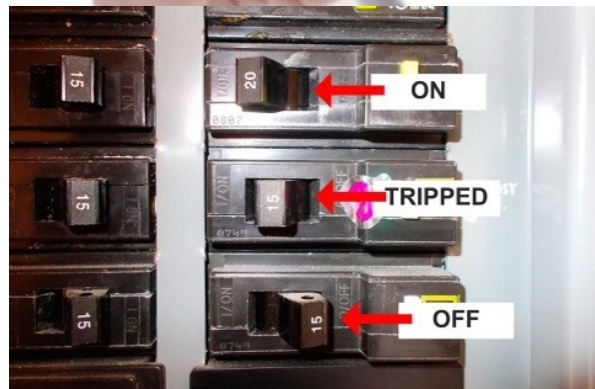
Hint and Tip Number 18: Tips About Your Circuit Breakers

March 26th, 2018

Circuit breakers protect you and your home from electrical injuries and fires. The reason they may trip is when there is an overload or short circuit, cutting off current to the problem line until the issue can be addressed safely.

Some Reasons Why A Breaker May Trip:

1. Overloaded Circuit: Too many electrical items on one breaker
2. A Short Circuit: Such as a wiring issue within an appliance that results in excess current being pulled.
3. A Ground Fault: which typically occurs in high moisture such as the kitchen or bath, and the reason GFCIs are required by current electrical code for your protection.



How To Reset A Circuit Breaker

If you lose power to an outlet or area in your home, a circuit breaker may have tripped, resetting the circuit breaker is easy. Open the door to the breaker box and look for the toggles (they look like blocky light switches mounted sideways.) Most should be pointed toward the panel center, indicating the ON position. Toggles pointed away from the panel center are OFF. Toggles in an in-between position are the one(s) which have tripped. You must turn the breaker OFF before turning in ON again or it will not reset. If it trips again right away, turn it off without resetting it, close the panel door, and consult a professional electrician for investigation.

Repeat Offender

If your home has a circuit breaker that repeatedly trips, or if you see charred breakers, notice a burning smell or see signs of fire, turn off the main breaker to your panel and contact a professional electrician immediately.

Remember: When it comes to your breaker box, if you're unsure of anything, don't mess with it. Seek the guidance of a professional electrician like Thomas Edison Electric. We're just a phone call or a mouse click away.

