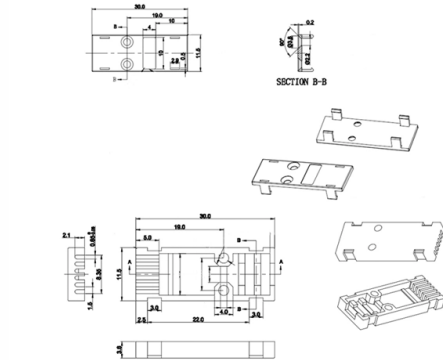


The circuit breaker trips when the distribution box is turned on



Overview

Circuit Breaker Tripping?

Causes & Solutions Guide Struggling with a tripping distribution box?

Our 2026 guide offers quick fixes for overloads, short circ.

Key Takeaways

A circuit breaker tripping immediately upon switching on usually indicates a serious electrical fault, such as a short circuit, ground fault, or overload.

Common Causes

1. Short Circuit A short circuit occurs when a live wire touches a neutral wire or a grounded metal part, causing a sudden surge of current. This is often accompanied by a popping sound, sparks, or a burning smell. Short circuits are hazardous and can damage wiring or cause fires, so the breaker trips instantly to protect the system . 2. Overload An overload happens when the total electrical load exceeds the breaker's rated capacity. If multiple high-power devices are connected to the same circuit, the breaker may trip immediately or shortly after switching on. This is common in homes with older wiring or when new appliances are added without upgrading the panel . 3. Ground Fault or Earth Leakage A ground fault occurs when electricity flows through an unintended path to the ground, often due to water ingress, damaged insulation, or faulty appliances. Residual-current devices (RCDs) or ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) detect this and trip the breaker to prevent electric shock . 4. Faulty Appliances or Wiring Sometimes, a defective appliance or damaged wiring can cause immediate tripping. Appliances like space heaters, refrigerators, or washing machines may overheat or have internal faults that trigger the breaker .

Steps to Diagnose and Fix

- Turn off the main breaker and unplug all devices on the affected circuit.
- Reset the breaker and switch it on with no load. If it trips immediately, the problem is likely in the wiring or the breaker itself.
- Inspect for visible damage such as burnt wires, loose connections, or moisture in outlets and junction boxes.
- Test appliances individually by plugging them in one at a time to identify any faulty device.
- Call a licensed electrician if the breaker continues to trip, especially if a short circuit or ground fault is suspected. Never repeatedly reset a breaker without identifying the cause, as this can lead to fire or equipment damage .

Safety Note

Immediate tripping is a warning sign. Avoid using the circuit until the issue is resolved. Handling electrical faults without proper knowledge can be extremely dangerous, so professional inspection is strongly recommended.

Article Content

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Testing for Overloaded Circuits When your circuit breaker continues tripping, systematic testing helps identify which devices cause

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We When a circuit breaker in your electrical panel trips, it happens for a reason. But simply

How to Fix a Tripped Circuit Breaker That Won't Reset

A circuit breaker is a safety device in your home designed to stop the flow of electricity if there's an overload, which can

How To Safely Reset a Tripped Breaker

Circuit breakers are designed to “trip”, or automatically turn off, when a circuit is overloaded. When a circuit breaker

Common Reasons Your Circuit Breaker Keeps Tripping And How To

To start, "turn off all appliances and lights on the affected circuit," recommends Dan Mock in his House Digest

Breaker Keeps Tripping? 3 Common Reasons and How to Fix It

Key Takeaways: Breakers trip to protect your home from overloads, short circuits, or dangerous power surges—so repeated tripping

How to Find What Is Tripping My Circuit Breaker: Easy Tests

If none of the devices immediately trip the circuit breaker, it's possible that your circuit isn't getting overloaded right

Circuit Breaker Off But Still Have Power: 6 Causes+Fix

The main circuit breaker is on. If you have turned off one circuit for some work but still have power, check for the main circuit breaker

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This could be a circuit breaker that has tripped. Go to your electrical panel and open the door on your panel. All the

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Reset the Circuit Box: Go to the circuit breaker and switch it off or remove the fuse. Turn it on again. This is

Main Fuse Breaker Keeps Tripping? 8 Reasons For this

An Immersion Heater that has gone faulty is one of the common reasons that a circuit breaker keeps

Breaker Keep Tripping? Here's Why and How to Fix It Safely

What Is a Circuit Breaker? A circuit breaker is a critical safety device in your electrical system. When the breaker detects a problem

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Learn why your breaker keeps tripping, what you can do to stop it, and how to prevent this issue to ensure your

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