

HOW TO RESET A BREAKER OR GFI/GFCI LOSS OF POWER TO A CIRCUIT OR APPLIANCE



1. Refer to Definitions at the bottom of this section for specific re setting instructions for Breakers and GFI/GFCI and replacement of fuses.
2. For loss of power to a light or plug in circuit:
 - A. Check to determine if there is a GFI/GFCI breaker on one of the plugs and try resetting it by pressing in the reset button until it snaps in. Then check to see if the circuit is working. If not:
 - B. Check the Breaker or fuse box to determine if a breaker need to be reset or a fuse replaced. Reset breaker or replace the bad fuse (**ALWAYS REPLACE FUSES WITH THE SAME SIZE!!** For example, do not use a 30 AMP fuse to replace a blown 20 AMP fuse).
- C. If the circuit also has a GFI/GFCI on it you may need to reset it again after resetting a circuit breaker.
- D. Reduce the number of items you have plugged in to a circuit. If you exceed the load of the circuit it will continue to have the breaker or GFI/GFCI flip off or burn out fuses.
3. For Loss of power to an appliance, electric heat, electric hot water:
 - A. Check in the breaker or fuse box to determine if the breakers need resetting or fuses replaced.
 - B. Appliances, heat, hot water typically involve two breakers next to each other in the panel. Both will need to be reset.
4. Definitions:
 - A. Breaker Box** – A metal panel located in or outside your home that has a series of breakers (switches) for shutting on and off an electrical circuit. They are commonly found below the location where the power comes into the home from overhead wires. If inside, it is common to find it in the garage, laundry room, behind a door or occasionally in a closet or on an outside wall.
 - B. Resetting a FLIPPED Breaker** – Breakers have three positions: ON, OFF and FLIPPED.
 1. It is usually easy to identify On by looking at the other breakers in the panel. If they are ON when switched to the left then all of the breakers in that row are ON to the left. If there are two rows of breakers in the box they are typically ON when switched towards the center of the panel.
 2. OFF is also easy to recognize as it is the opposite direction of ON.
 3. FLIPPED will look like it is ON. When a circuit is overloaded and flips off it does not go to the OFF position. Usually you can identify a FLIPPED breaker by trying to push it in the ON direction. While an ON breaker will feel firm, a FLIPPED breaker will feel as though there is a spring to it. To reset the Flipped breaker you need to first switch it OFF and then firmly back on. Then test the circuit. If the breaker re-flips call CPM and we will arrange for service. Remember, if you overload a circuit it will continue to flip the breaker.
 - C. Fuse Box** – On older homes there may be a fuse box rather than a breaker box. Fuses typically screw in to the panel and have a glass window so you can determine if it is burned out or not. You cannot reset fuses. They need to be replaced. If you have a fuse box it is a good idea to have a spare of each size available.

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Reset Breaker or GFI/GFIC (*continued*)

Try replacing the fuse if it is blown. If it blows again, notify CPM to report the problem. **NEVER REPLACE A FUSE BY PUTTING IN A HIGHER RATED FUSE!!** For example, do not use a 30 AMP fuse to replace a 20 AMP fuse.

D. GFI or GFIC – Ground Fault Interrupter. These are special circuit breakers that are typically installed in circuits where there is a risk of water coming into contact with plugged in equipment such as bathrooms, laundry rooms and kitchens. They are usually found as part of a plug in. There are two buttons in the center of a plug in one of which is a Test button and the other a Reset button. While there is only one GFI/GFIC in a circuit it will control the complete circuit. If you have lost power to a plug in circuit look to see if there is a GFI/GFIC plug in the circuit and reset it. The GFI/GFIC is sometimes found in an adjacent room or even the garage so you may have to look around to find it. If the GFI/GFIC is not the problem try the circuit breaker (see above).

5. If you cannot find the solution notify CPM and we will arrange to have an electrician check the system. Be aware though that if you are simply overloading a circuit you may be held responsible for the cost of the electrician.