

YOUR GUIDE TO COMMON ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

Find out what you can do before you
call an electrician



They're those small-but-annoying electrical problems that you wish would just go away... but they keep popping their ugly heads up!

You'd love to sort them out yourself without calling an electrician; but you're just not sure whether it's safe for you to do so.

This guide is your first step to getting those problems sorted – for good.

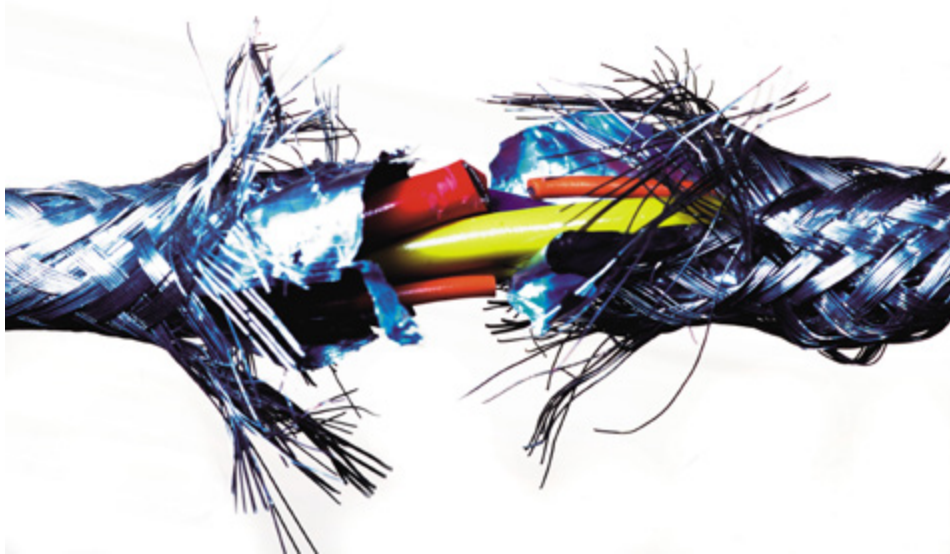
It lists some of the common electrical issues you may have around your home or business, and helps you quickly and safely identify the cause. It then tells you what you can do about them before you call Jaric's licensed electricians – potentially saving you time and money.

This free guide may protect your home or business, and perhaps even save your life!



HOW TO FIND AN ELECTRICAL FAULT

A short circuit doesn't happen by itself; something has to cause it.



Perhaps a cable has been damaged by a misplaced nail or screw; or maybe a furry friend has been chewing away inside your walls! Usually though, it's a faulty electrical appliance that's causing the issue.

The good news is, you don't need to be a Master Electrician like the team at Jaric Electrical to find out what's causing an electrical problem.

You can simply look at things logically and then eliminate each part of the circuit until you locate the offender.



WARNING: Only conduct this exercise if your existing switchboard has hard wired circuit breakers/safety switches and NOT semi-rewireable porcelain fuses.



HOW TO ISOLATE AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM, STEP-BY-STEP

1. Turn off all circuit breakers and safety switches on the switchboard.
2. Switch them back on one-at-a-time in this order:
 - a. Safety switch/es
 - b. Circuit breakers – one at a time.
3. The one that trips the safety switch is the one that has the faulty appliance on that circuit.
4. Turn off the circuit breaker that tripped the safety switch.
5. Turn on the safety switch again.
6. Go inside and find out which circuit/power points now have no power.
7. Unplug ALL items from the power points on that circuit
8. Turn on circuit breaker and see if there is still a fault.
9. Then add them back, one-at-a-time... until you find the fault!



NB. If the circuit breaker/safety switch continues to trip when all appliances are disconnected, then something more permanent is shorting. This is more often than not an outdoor fault, or a problem with or near the switchboard (which used to be called “the fuse box”). Check if the “lighting” circuit breaker is causing the safety switch to trip.

In this case, the problem is more serious. Call Jaric Electrical for advice on 1300 452 742.

CIRCUIT BREAKER FACTS: *DID YOU KNOW?*

- Always make sure you turn the circuit breaker fully off and fully on, since sometimes they can ‘stick’. But be careful not to actually hold the circuit breaker on – just quickly and firmly push it on.
- Most breakers can stand up to repeated shorting, so it’s perfectly safe to reset them many times.
- If you hear a loud buzzing sound from the circuit breaker, it could be the sign of a serious electrical hazard. Call Jaric Electrical on 1300 452 742 straight away.



COMMON ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS – AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Light bulbs burning out too quickly

If you find yourself constantly having to change light bulbs, it may be because the bulb has a higher wattage than your light fixture can handle. Replace it with a lower wattage bulb and see if this fixes the problem.



Flickering lights

If it's just one problem light, it may be the bulb or fluoro – in which case replacing it (or the starter) should fix it. If several lights are flickering, it could mean a poor connection, or perhaps an issue with the grid. If the problem persists, call Jaric Electrical to investigate.

Only one “two way” light switch works

One of them is obviously faulty and will need to be replaced. NEVER attempt a DIY fix for this problem! Instead, call Jaric Electrical on 1300 452 742.

Downlights going off and on

There may be a safety cut-out kicking in, or a faulty transformer. Try a downlight you know works, and if you have the same problem, call Jaric to replace the transformer.

Circuit breaker keeps tripping

Beware, there usually is a very good reason for this. Try our “fault finding” steps above, and if that fails call Jaric ASAP.



Note too that the wiring in Queenslanders and other older homes isn't designed to handle the high-wattage loads commonly experienced in today's homes, so a house rewiring or upgrade may be called for.

Electrical switches getting warm

A bit of warmth with a dimmer switch is fairly normal; but if you notice heat at a connection you'll need professional attention ASAP, as this can potentially start a fire.

Call Jaric Electrical for advice on 1300 452 742 and in the meantime, avoid plugging in anything to that power point. Check the point and all others in the room for heat or burn marks.

Plugs becoming loose or falling out of power points

More than a simple annoyance, this problem can be downright dangerous. If the prongs on the power cord aren't tightly gripped to form a secure connection, they could cause an arc or even a fire.

Our electricity bill seems higher than normal

Frustratingly, the cause could be anything, from a leaky hot water pipe to increased usage of an expensive appliance (such as a clothes dryer). If you're worried, you are welcome to contact Jaric Electrical for an electricity audit to pinpoint the cause and save you money.





For friendly, expert electrical service
contact Jaric Electrical.

No matter what electrical services you need, our
reliable electricians will give you expert advice,
high quality parts and products, and outstanding
workmanship in your home or business.

If you've ever unsure about the cause of or solution to an electrical
problem, don't stress!

***Call the experienced team at Jaric Electrical
on 1300 452 742 and we'll give you the friendly,
expert advice you need.***

