



Electrical emergencies in Germany

Your quick reference: what to do first, how the German fuse box works, and when to call for help.

1 Stay safe first

- Burning smell, smoke or sparks? Switch off the main breaker if it is safe to reach, unplug nearby appliances and ventilate the room. Never use water on an electrical fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the affected area, and away from anything metal connected to the supply.
- If anyone has received an electric shock or you see fire spreading, call the emergency services on 112 first.

2 The fuse box · Sicherungskasten

- Lost power in part of your home? A breaker (MCB) or the RCD/FI safety switch in your consumer unit has most likely tripped. The unit is usually by the front door, hallway or basement.
- You may switch a tripped breaker back ON once. If it trips again straight away, stop — a circuit is faulty and forcing it on is dangerous.

Quick check when the power goes out

1. Find the consumer unit (Sicherungskasten).
2. Look for a switch flipped to the OFF / down position.
3. Switch it back on once. Trips again? Leave it off and call us.

3 Common problems & what they mean

- Breaker keeps tripping: too many appliances on one circuit, or a faulty device or cable on it.
- Single dead socket or flickering lights: a loose connection or failing socket/switch to be checked.
- Scorch marks, warmth or buzzing at a socket: stop using it immediately and have it inspected.

4 When to call a certified electrician

- Repeated tripping, a dead fuse box, damaged or exposed wiring, scorched sockets, or any wet electrical situation.
- Any work inside the fuse box or walls — German installations follow strict VDE rules and need a qualified Elektrofachkraft.

Useful German words

Sicherungskasten	– fuse box / consumer unit	FI-Schalter	– RCD safety switch
Sicherung	– fuse / circuit breaker	Stromausfall	– power outage
Steckdose	– socket / outlet	Kurzschluss	– short circuit

Electrical emergency? Call 0151 611 342 71

English-speaking line, open 24 hours a day · electrician-experts.de