

RCD Tripping Checklist

Tenant Quick Guide

Step 1: Before You Reset

Do any of these apply right now?

Checklist	
☐	Burning smell or scorch marks near outlets or switchboard
☐	Smoke from any outlet or appliance
☐	Crackling or buzzing sounds from the switchboard
☐	Tingling sensation from an appliance or power point
☐	Water has entered an outlet, fitting, or appliance
☐	Visible melted plastic, discolouration, or damaged wiring

If you ticked any of the above, do not reset. Leave the circuit off and contact your rental provider/property manager or a licensed electrician immediately.

If none of the above applies, continue to Step 2.

Step 2: Unplug First, Then Reset

Unplug or switch off appliances in this order before touching the switchboard:

Checklist	
☐	High-draw appliances first: heaters, washing machine, dishwasher, dryer
☐	Kitchen appliances: kettle, toaster, microwave
☐	Any appliance that was running at the time of the trip
☐	Everything else connected to the affected circuit
☐	Locate the tripped RCD on your switchboard (it will have flipped to the off position)
☐	Reset the RCD by switching it back to the on position
☐	If it trips immediately on reset with nothing plugged in, stop and contact your property manager

Once all appliances are unplugged or switched off:

Step 3: Test Appliances One at a Time

Checklist	
☐	Plug appliances back in one at a time
☐	Switch each one on individually and wait a moment before adding the next
☐	If the RCD trips after reconnecting a specific appliance, that item is the likely cause
☐	Remove that appliance from use and do not plug it back in
☐	Note the appliance name and when the fault occurred

Step 4: Check for Visible Damage

Without touching any wiring or attempting repairs:

Checklist	
☐	Inspect cords and plugs for fraying, cracking, or scorch marks
☐	Check power points for discolouration, damage, or burn marks

☐	Look for moisture near any outlet, particularly in bathrooms, kitchens, or outdoors
☐	Check whether the fault follows wet weather or high humidity

Step 5: Keep a Record

If the tripping is intermittent, note down:

	Checklist
☐	Date and time of each trip
☐	Which circuit was affected
☐	What appliances were in use at the time
☐	Any patterns such as weather, time of day, or specific rooms

When to Escalate

Contact your rental provider or property manager if:

	Checklist
☐	Any of the danger signs in Step 1 are present
☐	The RCD continues tripping after working through these steps
☐	A fixed appliance, such as an oven or air conditioner, appears to be the cause
☐	Power cannot be safely restored to the circuit
☐	Faulty or damaged wiring is suspected
☐	The issue is affecting essential services or multiple circuits
☐	You are unsure about anything you have found