

## BREAKER BOX BASICS:

# Protecting your home from overloads

It's important to understand how your home's breaker panel works and to recognize the warning signs of electrical overloads.

When too much electricity runs through a circuit, the breaker is designed to trip. That quick action shuts off power and prevents wires from overheating, which could otherwise lead to a fire.

If you notice any of these issues, check your breaker panel. A tripped breaker will be in the "off" or middle position. To reset it, switch it fully to "off," then back to "on."

### WARNING SIGNS OF OVERLOADED OUTLETS OR CIRCUITS INCLUDE:

- » Lights that flicker, blink, or dim
- » Warm outlet or switch covers
- » Burning odors from outlets or switches
- » Circuit breakers that trip often
- » Crackling or buzzing sounds near receptacles
- » Mild shock or tingling when touching appliances or switches
- » Appliances or tools not running at full strength