

## THE 5-MINUTE SAFETY CHECK: 4 COMMON HOME ISSUES

Try this checklist anytime something goes wrong in your home.\*

### BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING:

- Is anyone in immediate danger?
- Do you smell gas, smoke, or burning?
- Is water spreading rapidly?
- Are there sparks or exposed wires?
- Can you safely access the problem area?

### ⚠ IF YOU CHECKED ANY BOX ABOVE:

- GET OUT immediately
- Call 911 or your utility company
- Do NOT attempt to fix the problem yourself
- Do NOT re-enter until authorities say it's safe

### ✓ IF ALL BOXES ARE UNCHECKED:

You can proceed to assess the problem. Continue to the decision flowcharts on the next pages.

### DECISION FLOWCHARTS

For the 4 Common Home Emergencies....

### 1. NO POWER IN WHOLE HOUSE

START HERE: Entire house has no power

CHECK: Are your neighbors' lights on?

↓

YES, NEIGHBORS HAVE POWER:

→ Check your main breaker at electrical panel

→ If tripped, reset it

→ If it won't stay on → ⚠ CALL AN

ELECTRICIAN

NO, NEIGHBORS ALSO DARK:

→ It's a utility issue

→ Call your electric company

→ Report the outage

→ Wait for restoration

### 2. NO POWER IN ONE ROOM

START HERE: One room/outlet has no power

↓

CHECK: Go to electrical panel (basement/garage/utility closet)

↓

LOOK FOR: A breaker flipped to the middle position or "OFF"

↓

TRY: Turn breaker fully OFF, then back ON

### DID IT WORK?

✓ YES → Problem solved! Monitor for repeat issues.

✗ NO → Check these:

Does the breaker trip immediately when reset?

Do you smell burning?

Are there scorch marks on outlets?

IF YES TO ANY → ⚠ CALL AN ELECTRICIAN

IF NO → Could be a bad outlet. Call an electrician for diagnosis.

### 3. STRANGE SMELLS

START HERE: You smell something unusual

↓

IDENTIFY THE SMELL:

GAS SMELL (Rotten eggs):

- ⚠️ GET OUT IMMEDIATELY
- Call gas company from outside
- DO NOT turn on/off any switches
- DO NOT use phone inside house

BURNING SMELL:

- Check for:
  - Something in oven/stove?
  - Overheated appliance?
  - Dust burning off heater (first use)?

IF YOU CAN'T FIND SOURCE:

- ⚠️ Turn off power at breaker
- Call electrician

SEWAGE/ROTTEN SMELL:

- Check for:
  - Clogged drain?
  - Dry P-trap (run water in unused drains)
  - Toilet wax ring issue?

IF PERSISTENT → ⚠️ CALL PLUMBER

MUSTY/MOLDY SMELL:

- Look for water damage/leaks
- Check humidity levels
- May need mold remediation → Call specialist

### 4. HVAC NOT WORKING

START HERE: Heat or AC isn't working

↓

QUICK CHECKS FIRST:

- Is thermostat set correctly?
- Is thermostat display working?
- Check breaker – is it tripped?
- Check air filter – is it clogged?

IF FILTER IS DIRTY:

- Replace it (do this monthly!)
- Wait 30 minutes
- Problem may resolve

IF THERMOSTAT BATTERY DEAD:

- Replace battery
- Reset thermostat

IF BREAKER TRIPPED:

- Reset breaker
- If it trips again → ⚠️ CALL HVAC TECH

IF NONE OF THE ABOVE:

- ⚠️ CALL HVAC TECHNICIAN

⚠️ IN WINTER: No heat + freezing temps = EMERGENCY

- Call immediately to prevent frozen pipes