FREE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Power went out in one room? Here's what it means

Common reasons power goes out in one room

If the power went out in just one room while the rest of your house still works, the utility is not the problem; something on that specific circuit is. The issue is usually a tripped breaker, a tripped GFCI outlet, or a wiring problem on that circuit. Even if the breaker does not look tripped, it may need to be fully turned OFF and then back ON. If nothing looks tripped anywhere, see power out with no breaker tripped.

- [ ] A tripped circuit breaker
- [ ] A tripped GFCI outlet
- [ ] A loose wiring connection
- [ ] An overloaded circuit
- [ ] A failed outlet or switch
- [ ] Damaged wiring behind walls

What you can check first

The two most common causes are a tripped GFCI feeding the room and a tripped breaker. Start by resetting every GFCI in the home, then check the panel for a breaker that is tripped or sitting halfway between on and off.

If resetting does not restore power, or the breaker trips again right away, the circuit may be overloaded or have a loose or damaged connection. A breaker that will not reset is doing its job, so do not force it.

- [ ] Check your electrical panel for a tripped breaker
- [ ] Reset nearby GFCI outlets in bathrooms, kitchens, and garage
- [ ] Test outlets with a different device
- [ ] Look for recently plugged-in high-power appliances

Call a licensed electrician if you notice

Room-specific power loss can sometimes indicate a deeper wiring issue, and it is safest not to ignore repeated outages. We track down the break in the circuit, whether a failed device, a loose connection, or overloaded wiring, and restore power safely.

- [ ] Burning smell from outlets or switches
- [ ] Warm or buzzing outlets

- [ ] Lights flickering before power loss
- [ ] Breaker won't stay reset
- [ ] Older home with outdated wiring

Frequently asked questions

Why did power go out in only one room?

The utility is not the problem when only one room is affected; something on that specific circuit is. The two most common causes are a tripped GFCI outlet feeding the room and a tripped breaker in your panel.

What should I check first?

Reset every GFCI in the home, then check the breaker panel for a breaker that is tripped or sitting halfway between on and off. Also test outlets with a different device and look for recently plugged-in high-power appliances.

When should I call an electrician?

If resetting does not restore power, or the breaker trips again right away, the circuit may be overloaded or have a loose or damaged connection. Persistent trips, warm outlets, or a burning smell mean it's time to call a licensed electrician.

Sources

1. Why is My Power Out?, Portland General Electric. https://portlandgeneral.com/outages-safety/why-is-my-power-out
2. Troubleshooting Home Power Problems, Portland General Electric. https://portlandgeneral.com/outages-safety/why-is-my-power-out/home-faqs

> **Need a licensed electrician in the Portland area?**
> Call Smiley Electric at (503) 484-7556 (Mon–Sat, 7am–5pm) or visit smileyelectric.net/contact. For sparks, smoke, a burning smell or a hot panel, turn off the power if it is safe and call right away.

Reviewed by Joshua Smiley, owner & master electrician, Smiley Electric. Last reviewed November 13, 2026. Online version: smileyelectric.net/help/power-went-out-in-one-room/. General information, not a substitute for an on-site inspection.

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