



Keeping the Community Informed

Circuit Breakers and Ground Fault Interrupters

Townhome unit owners may from time to time experience a loss of electrical power from certain outlets in their homes. The outlets and fixtures inside your house are wired to circuit breakers which are easily accessible in the main electrical circuit breaker box located in the utility (furnace and water heater) room. The circuit breakers are generally clearly marked and refer to the specific area of the house that they control, e.g., "living room", "washing machine", "upstairs bedroom/bath", etc. The key is located on the inside of the circuit breaker box door and is numbered to correspond to the actual breaker switches. Generally, resetting the switch to its "on" position will restore electricity to the corresponding outlets.

NOTE: Make certain that before you reset a "tripped" breaker, you unplug any appliances, i.e., vacuum cleaner, hairdryer, that may have been the cause of the overload. If a circuit is broken repeatedly by the same appliance, take it in for service.

IMPORTANT: There are certain outlets in your townhome which are protected by special circuits. Ground fault interrupters (GFI) are usually found in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and garage. They are small circuit breaker-like devices which shut off the associated circuit if there is an electrical "leak" which may cause a "ground fault" - a shock hazard due to moisture or a damp floor.

In most townhomes, the garage outlet and the outside the house outlet (located on the back of your unit near the sliding door(s)), are connected to the GFI outlet in the utility room. If you experience a loss of electrical power in either of these outlets, they can only be reset by pushing the red button on the GFI outlet in the utility room. Push it firmly and it will lock in. If it keeps "popping out" and won't stay in the locked in position, there is probably a short circuit in one of the outlets connected to the GFI. This could be caused by a wet outdoor outlet (possibly after a severe rain storm and particularly if the receptacle covers are not closed), and will generally dry out after about 6-12 hours. You should then be able to reset the GFI breaker. If it will not reset, an electrician should be contacted.

NOTE: In some townhomes, the master bath room outlets are connected to the GFI breaker outlet in the utility room (located close to the main box). Please keep this in mind if you lose power in your master bath and try resetting that GFI outlet. (This has happened to more than one homeowner).

DISCLAIMER: This is offered as information to the unit owner. Neither the condominiums nor the Pondside Home Owners' Association are responsible for the correctness of this procedure or for any damage that results from following the procedure.

HOA Board of Directors