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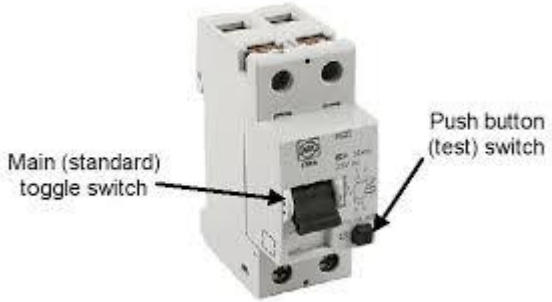
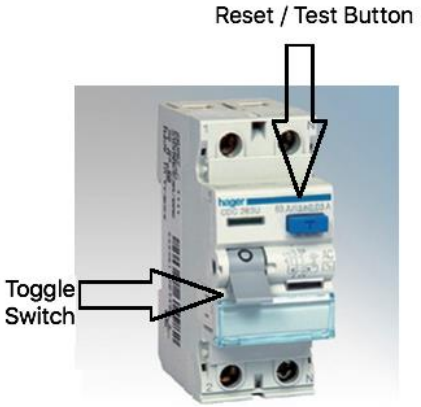
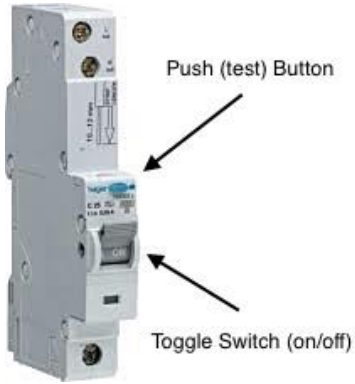
# RCD Reset Procedure

# What is an RCD?

A Residual Current Device is a safety device which is now, fitted in most domestic electrical supplies. There will usually be a small reset button on it and It will either have RCD, RCCB or RCBO written on it. If you're not sure whether you have one, it should look something like this:

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# How do I reset an RCD?

RCDs are designed to be reset. Sometimes they trip for no apparent reason. They can be tripped by a lightbulb blowing. It isn't always an indication of a problem.

If the lever on an RCD is in the DOWN position, it is off. To reset it, the lever simply needs to be pushed back UP. For some RCDs, it is necessary to push the lever fully downwards before it will let you push it back UP and reset.

In many cases, this will be fine. The RCD will reset and all will be well. However, if there is a fault on your system somewhere, the RCD may not reset, or may reset temporarily, only to trip again a few seconds/minutes/hours later. If this happens, then you may well have a problem which needs to be addressed. The RCD is telling you that something is not right and you need to investigate.

To work out whether this is something which you can resolve yourself, or whether you need to call in an electrician, there is a simple procedure to follow.

# My RCD won’t reset. What should I do?

If you were in the house when the RCD tripped, ask yourself what happened just before the RCD tripped. If you had just turned the Kettle on, or switched on the Iron, there’s a possibility that this may be the cause of the problem. Fully unplug the Kettle/Iron and reset the RCD. If the RCD resets and stays reset, then you have probably found your culprit.

If the RCD seems to have tripped for no reason at all, there is a straightforward procedure to follow, which in most cases will identify where the problem lies.

# Stage 1

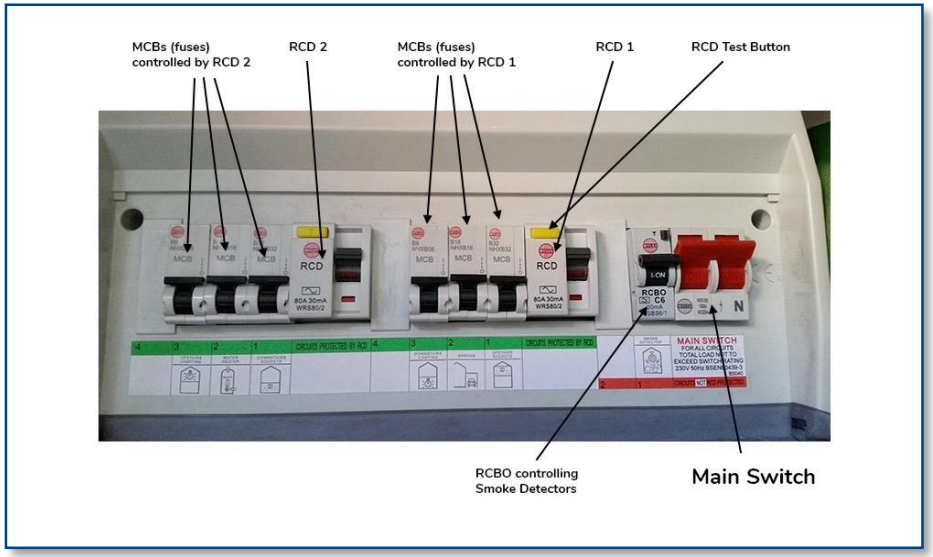
Firstly switch off the RCD and all the fuses (MCBs) controlled by it. All the levers should be pointing DOWN
In this case, lets imagine that RCD 2 is the problem. The circuits covered by RCD 2 are:

- Downstairs Sockets
- Water Heater (Probably the Boiler)
- Upstairs Lights

Turn off all those fuses (Lever pointing DOWN).

Then unplug everything that is plugged into the Downstairs Sockets.

Turn off the Boiler (or water heater) at the local Switch
Usually fitted just below boiler or in Tank Cupboard for a Water heater.




At this point, still with all the fuses turned off, try to reset the RCD. If the RCD stays in the ON position, then you have successfully completed Stage 1.

# Stage 2 : Socket Outlets

Start with the Downstairs Sockets.
First turn on the fuse (MCB) for the downstairs sockets, and see if the RCD also stays on. If it doesn't stay on, check that you have definitely unplugged everything on that circuit.
Might there be something plugged in in a cupboard or behind a piece of furniture that you had forgotten about?, Is there an outside socket?
It is very easy to miss something at this stage, so you may have to really rack your brains. Cooker Hoods are an easy one to miss.

If you are pretty sure that everything has been unplugged and you still can't reset the RCD, it is time to call an electrician. This scenario (which is pretty unlikely) would suggest that there may be a problem with the wiring or something on the circuit.

If the RCD remains on, then go round and plug in each of the appliances that you previously unplugged. Switch each one on. If at any stage, the RCD trips, you have found your culprit.

If the RCD remains on while you plug everything back in, it appears that the problem isn't on this particular circuit.

# Stage 3: Boiler/Water Heater

Move on to the next circuit and do the same thing.

In this case, it is the boiler circuit, so it will just be a case of switching the boiler/water heater switch back on, this also applies if it was also a Cooker or Shower Circuit.

If the RCD trips at this point, there could be an issue with the boiler/water heater/cooker/shower, at this point you should leave the Switch off and reset the rest of the circuits to restore as much power as possible and then call an electrician for further advise.

# Stage 4: Lighting Circuit (s)

Finally turn on the third circuit. In this case, it is the Upstairs lighting Circuit. To save time,  you have left all the light bulbs in their fittings. If the RCD trips when you turn the fuse (MCB) for the lights back on, take all the lightbulbs out (for light fittings where the bulb can not be removed operate the light switch to turn the light off) and switch the Fuse back on.

If the RCD stays on, put each light bulb back into its fitting (or operate the  light switch where bulb was not removed) in turn. For safety's sake, make sure that you turn the fuse (MCB) off each time that you put a bulb in, and turn it on once the bulb is in position.  If the RCD trips when you put one of the bulbs back in, then that will be your culprit.