Guide on how to fix a tripped fuse

Any kind of major electrical fault around the house will need to be repaired by a professional electrician. However, that said, there are a few everyday electrical tasks that aren't complicated or dangerous which you could attempt yourself. The most important thing to remember is to switch off and unplug whatever it is you need to work on so there is no danger of a live current.

The first thing to do is find your main fuse box (these days called a consumer unit), which will be in the same place as your electricity meter. They are often in the main hallway of a house, in a purpose built cupboard. This is where the electricity in your house is controlled from, and it's important that you know where to go and what to do if you need to turn off the mains electricity. (It's also helpful to remember where you left the torch...)

In the case of loss of electric light or power

Your fuse box, or consumer unit, will either have fuses or trip switches. Modern electric circuits are fitted with a circuit breaker fuse system: if a fault develops, a switch is tripped and the circuit is broken. Older ones have fuse holders and when a fuse is blown it must be replaced or rewired.

Setting a trip switch

Open the cover on the consumer unit to see which switches have tripped to the OFF position. Put them back to the ON position. If tripping occurs again, a faulty appliance is probably causing it. You need to identify which circuit is affected and which appliance on that circuit is causing the problem.

Which appliance is faulty?

Go around the house noting which set of lights or sockets are not working. Unplug all appliances on that problem circuit and switch off any immersion heaters (if you have one). Switch the tripped switch to the ON position and plug in the appliances one by one until the trip goes again. Leave that appliance unplugged, and have it repaired by a qualified electrician.

What causes it to trip or blow a fuse?

An overloaded circuit
Too many appliances being used at the same time
A faulty or misused appliance
Overfilled kettles
Unclean toasters
Cooker rings worn out or cracked
Faulty immersion heaters
Faulty connections on leads to appliances e.g. televisions or stereos etc.
Light bulbs blowing

Plugs

Most plugs will have a fuse inside them. If the appliance suddenly stops working, it is worth replacing the fuse inside the plug before calling the electrician.
To find out the correct type of fuse to fit in the plug, check the rating plate on the appliance. Do not overload plug sockets by using multiple plug adaptors.
Replacing the plug on an appliance is fairly straightforward, and is well worth doing before you declare your electrical appliance broken.