

personal english



Idiom #30

Talking About Trouble
*There's Mischief Brewing, When
the Shit Hits the Fan and
Shitstorm*



The sensation that trouble is developing or is about to strike is conveyed in English by the idiom ***There's mischief brewing***, which refers to the bubbling and gurgling sounds (perceived as ominous) of the fermentation process.

When the expected trouble materializes, then we refer to it as ***Shit having hit the fan***, which alludes to the unmistakable effect of shit being thrown into an electric fan. This idiom is obviously vernacular, so a more polite alternatives may replace 'shit' with 'eggs', 'pie', 'soup', or – more generally – ***'stuff'***: *When the shit (/stuff) hits the fan, you better be far far away.*

Finally, when trouble triggers a chain reaction or bothersome effects, then we talk about a ***shitstorm*** – whose meaning is pretty self-explanatory...