

Electrical distribution box above the door



AI Overview

Placing a distribution box directly above a door is generally not recommended due to accessibility and safety concerns, and it may violate NEC clearance requirements.

Safety and Accessibility Considerations

Electrical distribution boxes, also known as panelboards or breaker boxes, must be installed in readily accessible locations to allow safe operation and maintenance. Mounting a box above a door can make it difficult to reach the breakers, especially in emergencies, and may increase the risk of accidental contact with live parts during servicing. The enclosure should also be installed in a dry, ventilated area with sufficient space for wiring and heat dissipation.

NEC Clearance Requirements

According to the National Electrical Code (NEC 110.26):

- Working space in front of the panel: Minimum 30 inches wide, 36 inches deep, and 6.5 feet (≈ 2 meters) high.
 - Mounting height: The top of the panelboard should not exceed 6 feet 7 inches (≈ 2 meters) above the floor.
 - Door operation: The panelboard door must open fully to 90° without obstruction.
- Placing a distribution box above a door may violate these height and clearance requirements, making it non-compliant with NEC standards.

Practical Recommendations...

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Obviously, distribution board sizes vary greatly; so generally fix at 1800mm or 2000mm to the top, taking into account local conditions

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Distribution Boards

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National Electrical Code (NEC) Requirements for

The National Electrical Code (NEC) provides comprehensive safety standards for electrical installations,

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