# How to install a distribution box on a staircase




## Overview

Installing a distribution box on the staircaseLearn how to wire a distribution box step by step! This video shows real on-site footage of electrical instal.

## Key Takeaways

A distribution box can be installed under a staircase or on a stair landing, but it must not be placed over the steps and must meet clearance and accessibility requirements.

### Key Considerations

Placement Restrictions: According to the National Electrical Code (NEC), overcurrent protective devices (circuit breakers) cannot be installed directly over the steps of a stairway (NEC 240. 24(F)),. However, installation on a stair landing or under the stairs is allowed if the required working space is maintained.

The area must be dry, accessible, and free from obstructions. Working Space Requirements: NEC 110. 26 specifies that a distribution box must have at least 3 feet of clear working space in front and sufficient headroom, typically 6.

5 feet, to allow safe operation and maintenance. This ensures that electricians or homeowners can safely access the panel without risk of injury. Height and Accessibility: The recommended height for residential installations is generally around 1.

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5 meters (5 feet) from the floor, but panels must not exceed 6 feet 7 inches from the floor to the top of the panel. The panel door must be able to open fully (90 degrees) without obstruction. Material and Safety: The distribution box should be made of durable material, such as steel for armored cables, or high-quality plastic for lighter indoor setups.

Proper grounding, ventilation, and protection devices (breakers, fuses, surge protectors) are essential for safety. Fire and Building Code Compliance: Stairwells are considered part of the building structure, but local building codes (IBC, NFPA 101) may restrict the use of exit stairways for purposes other than egress. Ensure that the installation does not interfere with fire-rated walls or violate exit path requirements.

### Practical Tips

Avoid placing the panel over steps; use a landing or the space under the stairs. Ensure clear access for maintenance and emergency shutoff. Check local codes and AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) for any additional restrictions.

Label circuits clearly and leave adequate ventilation around the box. In summary, installing a distribution box under a staircase or on a landing is feasible and commonly done, provided all NEC clearance, headroom, and safety requirements are met, and the installation does not obstruct the stairway or violate local building codes.

## Article Content

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Installing a distribution box on the staircase

Installing a distribution box on the staircase Section 240.24 (F) prohibits overcurrent protective devices from being installed/located over the steps of a stairway. As long as the required working space can

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