Place the electrical distribution box next to the stairs



Overview

Section 240.24 (F) prohibits overcurrent protective devices from being installed/located over the steps of a stairway.

Key Takeaways

Placing an electrical distribution box directly over stair steps is prohibited, but it may be installed near or under stairs if proper clearances and safety requirements are met.

NEC Compliance and Safety Considerations

According to the National Electrical Code (NEC), overcurrent protective devices such as circuit breakers cannot be installed above the steps of a stairway (NEC 240. 24(F)),. However, a panel can be located on a stair landing or under the stairs as long as it is not directly over the steps and all required working space is maintained.

Required Working SpaceNEC 110. 26 specifies the minimum working space around electrical panels: Width: At least 30 inches wide in front of the panel. Depth: Minimum of 3 feet clear floor space in front of the panel.

Height: At least 6 feet 6 inches of headroom in front of the panel. The panel door must be able to open 90 degrees without obstruction. These clearances ensure safe access for inspection, maintenance, and emergency operation.

Appliances, furniture, or stored items must not infringe on this space.

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Fire and Structural Considerations

Panels should not be installed in closets containing flammable materials such as clothes or solvents (NEC 240. 24(D)),. Any wall penetrations for wiring must comply with fire-stopping requirements if passing through fire-rated walls (NEC 300.

21),. Stairwells are considered part of the building structure, so the “foreign systems” provision does not typically apply, but local building codes may restrict using exit stairways for purposes other than egress.

Practical Recommendations

Ensure the panel is easily accessible and not obstructed by handrails or other structural elements. Avoid cramped under-stair spaces that do not meet the required headroom or floor clearance. Consider relocating the panel if upgrading or adding new circuits, as most authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) will not allow new installations directly over stairs.

Adequate lighting should be provided to allow safe operation at night.

Summary

While it is not allowed to place a panel directly over stair steps, installing it near or under stairs is possible if: The panel is not above the steps. Clearances of 30 inches width, 3 feet depth, and 6 feet 6 inches height are maintained. The area is free from flammable materials and obstructions.

Local building codes and fire safety requirements are followed. Following these guidelines ensures NEC compliance, safety, and accessibility for your electrical distribution box.

Article Content

Panelboard on Stairs, Wireway Clearance and More

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 be maintained, a panelboard

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Are Electrical Panels Allowed Over Stairs? When looking at the stairs, we occasionally see electric panels in stairways of a basement or where a homeowner added an addition, usually

Electrical Panel Mounting Requirements (Dictated by the NEC)

While the National Electrical Code prohibits the placing of an electrical panel in tight spaces, it does not outlaw its installation under stairways – as long as the area is spacious enough.

An Ultimate Guide to Choose the Electrical Panel Location

In this guide, we will explore where electrical panels are commonly installed, the regulations governing their placement, and key factors to consider when determining the best location.

The installation requirements for the distribution box

Learn how to install a distribution box safely and correctly. Covers wiring, placement, standards, and expert tips for a compliant setup.

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Installing a breaker box in cramped spaces makes it difficult to gain access for you and your electrician. In case of an emergency, you don''t want to make your way through cramped

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Learn where to install your electrical meter box for safety, easy access, and regulation compliance with expert tips and maintenance advice.

Can an electrical panel be located under stairs?

While not specifically excluded by the National Electrical Code (NEC), there are two code standards that a panel must comply with to be located under a stair: 1) The under-stair space is

Where is the best place to put a power distribution box?

In addition, the location should be close to the main electrical power source so that the box can easily be connected to it. When choosing the best place to put a power distribution box, several factors must

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Can an electric panel be located over stairs?

Also, see our articles Can an electrical panel be located under stairs? and Can an electrical panel be located at a stair landing? For a list of other locations where a panel should not be

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Installing a consumer unit in a UK home is a crucial task, as it is the heart of the wiring system and serves as the distribution hub for electricity throughout the property. With the modernisation of

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Contribute to annontopicmodel/unsupervised_topic_modeling development by creating an account on GitHub.

Panelboard on Stairs, Wireway Clearance and More

Jim Dollard has an extensive background in codes and standards. Send questions about the National Electrical Code (NEC) to Jim at codefaqs@gmail . Answers are based on the 2023

Electrical panels in rated stairwell

I have a renovation on an existing 3 story, type 3B construction, R-2 six unit apartment building. The owner wants to put electrical panels in the rated stairwell. Can not find anything in NEC

Electrical Panel Location and Installation: Clearance, Bathrooms ...

Conclusion Understanding the best electrical breaker box location in your house is extremely important because the circuit breaker box controls the supply of power in the entire house.

Regulations / guidance regarding siting of distribution

Hello All Is there any regulations regarding the siting of distribution boards like level area in front of board and dimensions of area in front of board etc?

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