Cost of complete electrical distribution box

Overview

Explore distribution box cost factors, safety features, and budget solutions. Learn how to select the right panel for your needs and budget.

Key Takeaways

The cost of an electrical distribution box typically ranges from $150 to $4,000 depending on size, capacity, materials, and installation requirements.

Residential Distribution Boxes

For standard residential setups, distribution boxes (or panel boxes) generally cost between $150 and $1,500, including parts and labor. Basic single-phase indoor panels with 6–12 breaker spaces often fall in the $450–$1,000 range, while mid-range 125 A panels with upgraded breakers and some rewiring can cost $1,400–$1,800. Factors influencing cost include amperage rating, number of circuits, enclosure type, and labor complexity.

Commercial and Industrial Distribution Boxes

Commercial or industrial-grade distribution boxes are more expensive due to higher durability, larger capacity, and advanced features. Prices can range from $2,000 to $4,000 or more for outdoor weatherproof panels, specialty breakers, and extensive wiring. Material choice—such as ABS plastic, powder-coated steel, or stainless steel—also significantly affects pricing.

Customization, surge protection, and integration with building management systems can further increase costs.

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Installation and Labor Costs

Installation costs vary by location, accessibility, and complexity. For smaller residential boxes, labor typically ranges from $85–$125 per hour, with total installation costs for multi-gang or feed-through boxes reaching $200–$600 plus labor. Concrete walls, limited access, or additional safety devices like GFCI/AFCI can add 15–40% to the base cost.

Permits and inspections may add $50–$350 depending on local regulations.

Key Cost Drivers

Box size and number of circuits: Larger panels with more breaker spaces cost more. Material and enclosure type: Weather-resistant or stainless steel units are pricier. Internal components: High-quality breakers, surge protectors, and busbars increase cost.

Installation complexity: Labor hours, accessibility, and rewiring needs affect total price. Location and permits: Regional labor rates and permit fees can vary total costs by 15–30%.

Summary

In summary, a basic residential distribution box may cost a few hundred dollars, while commercial or industrial panels with advanced features and outdoor ratings can reach several thousand dollars. Always consider both the hardware and installation costs, as well as long-term reliability and safety features, when budgeting for a distribution box.

Article Content

Distribution Box Cost Guide: Value & Features

Explore distribution box cost factors, safety features, and budget solutions. Learn how to select the right panel for your needs and budget.

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Distribution Box Guide: Types, Components & Solutions

Understand distribution boxes (DB boxes) in 5 minutes. Learn about types, components, functions, and uses. Find the perfect DB box for your needs.

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Have other electrical projects such as installing sockets or lighting carried out at the same time. This way, you make optimal use of the professional''s time and distribute any fixed costs

12 types of distribution boxes and how to choose them

Key Factors in Choosing a Distribution Box Building Type and Size: Start with where it''s going. For homes, a residential or flush-mounted box might suffice, but large spaces need sub

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