ZITHA TECH SPECIALTY CABLES (Pty) Ltd

How much clearance should be provided for the distribution box



Overview

Always measure clearance from the outermost point of the equipment enclosure (the front), not the wall it''s mounted on.

Key Takeaways

A minimum of 3 feet (36 inches) of clear working space in front, 30 inches width or the width of the equipment, and 6½ feet (2 meters) headroom is required around a distribution box.

Working Depth

The front clearance of a distribution box must be at least 3 feet (36 inches) for standard residential systems (0–150 V to ground), measured from the face of the equipment straight out. This ensures safe access for operation, maintenance, and emergency situations, allowing a worker to back away from live parts if necessary . For higher voltage systems or when live parts are on both sides, the required depth increases according to NEC 110.26 conditions: up to 4–5 feet for voltages above 600 V .

Working Width

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The width of the working space must be the greater of 30 inches (762 mm) or the width of the distribution box itself. This space does not need to be centered but must allow full access to the equipment and permit doors or covers to open at least 90 degrees .

Headroom Clearance

The minimum headroom above the working space is 6½ feet (2 meters) or the height of the equipment, whichever is greater. No piping, ductwork, or other obstructions should intrude into this zone to ensure safe movement and prevent awkward working positions .

Practical Considerations
• The working space must remain free of obstructions, including storage, shelving, or flammable materials .

• Adequate lighting is required for safe operation and maintenance .

• For distribution boxes integrated with modern systems like solar panels or EV chargers, maintaining these clearances ensures future-proofing and safety .

• Minor projections like conduit or raceways may extend up to 6 inches into the working space, but nothing more .

By following these clearance requirements, you ensure compliance with NEC 110.26, safe access for electricians, and reduced risk of electrical hazards.

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Junction Box Clearance Requirements: NEC 110.26 Guide

Learn junction box clearance requirements, when NEC 110.26 working space applies, and how to avoid inspection

NEC Working Clearance Requirements: A Visual Guide (110.26)

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How Much Clearance Is Required Around an Electrical Panel?

For a typical residential panel operating at 120/240 volts, the required depth of the clear space is 36 inches, measured outward from

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2340.16. Work Space ...

(B) The space equal to the width and depth of the equipment shall be kept clear of foreign systems unless protection is provided to

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NEC Requirements for Panelboards and Load Centers

Clearance: Electrical panels must be installed in a readily accessible area with a minimum clearance of 30 inches (762 mm) wide, 3 ft

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Electrical Panel Clearance Code: NEC 110.26 For

Keep the working space clear from the floor or grade up to 6 ft 6 in. (2.0 m) or the height of

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Side clearance: There should be a minimum of 30 inches of clearance from the sides of all electrical equipment, but in no case less

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When working in a passageway and live parts are exposed for inspection or servicing, the working space should be guarded from

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Working Clearances for Electrical Panelboards & Equipment: Enough space should be provided to work on electrical equipment.

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NEC Article 110.34: Electrical Room "Basics"

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How Much Clearance Is Required Around an Electrical Panel?

The electrical panel, often called the breaker box or load center, is the central distribution point for all electrical power entering a

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Metal-enclosed switchgear, unit substations, transformers, pull boxes, connection boxes, and other similar associated equipment

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A leakage protector should be installed in the distribution box to provide additional safety protection. Installation

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The National Electrical Code establishes electrical panel clearance requirements to ensure that the panel operates

Working Space Requirements for Electrical Panelboards

Figures 5, 5a, and 5b. Condition 3 working space requirements and nominal voltages that apply.You can see in figures

Clearances: Working Space Depth.

Clearances: working space, clear spaces, headroom and dedicated equipment space A number of concerns relating

Best practices for the installation and inspection of dry-type

Adequate space should also be provided to accommodate such barriers and guards as necessary to protect personnel performing

OSHA Electrical Panels Clearance Requirements

Clearance To ensure that an electrical panel can be accessed at all times – during inspection, maintenance or

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Before you install or relocate your electrical panel box, you''ll need to follow the regulations set forth by the National

How much clearance is needed around an electrical panel?

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It is also important to keep the area around the electrical panel dry, clean, and ventilated. Any cords, boxes, or equipment should not

Electrical Panel Clearance Code: NEC 110.26 For Homes And Garages

Electrical panel clearance code issues top nearly every inspection list—and for good reason. Boxes, shelves, and

Electrical Panel Safety

1,970 injuries from mechanisms from being exposed to dust, dirt, and moisture. Electrical panel boxes in commercial buildings should

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It is unacceptable to be subjected to additional dangers by working around bicycles, boxes, crates, appliances, and

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