ZITHA TECH SPECIALTY CABLES (Pty) Ltd

Prices of distribution boxes and circuit breakers



Overview

The price you pay will hinge on amperage, number of circuits, wiring conditions, and whether a permit is required.

Key Takeaways

Circuit breakers in distribution boxes typically cost $6–$18 per standard unit, with total panel installation ranging from $500 to $4,000 depending on amperage, type, and labor.Individual Circuit Breaker Costs
• Standard single-pole breakers: 15A units cost $6–$12, 20A units $7–$14, and 30A units $10–$18 depending on brand and features. Bulk purchases can reduce per-unit cost to $4–$8 .

• AFCI (Arc Fault) and GFCI (Ground Fault) breakers: These specialized units range from $30–$80 per breaker for 15A–30A ratings, providing enhanced safety for bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoor circuits .

• Labor for installation: Installing or replacing a breaker typically costs $75–$200, with more advanced breakers or main panels raising total costs to $110–$360 for residential setups .
Distribution Box / Panel Costs
• Basic residential panels: Start around $500, suitable for small homes or offices .

• Mid-range panels: Include additional circuits, better materials, and weather-resistant enclosures, costing $1,000–$2,500 .

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• High-end or main breaker panels: Larger 200A mains or smart panels can reach $3,000–$4,000 including permits and professional installation .
Factors Affecting Pricing
• Amperage and number of circuits: Higher amperage panels and more circuits increase both breaker and panel costs.

• Breaker type: Standard, AFCI, GFCI, or tandem breakers differ in price due to safety features and certification requirements.

• Brand and quality: Premium brands like Square D, Eaton, and Leviton may cost more but offer reliability and compliance with electrical codes.

• Installation complexity: Labor costs vary with panel accessibility, existing wiring conditions, and local permit requirements.

• Additional features: Modern panels may include surge protection, smart monitoring, modular designs, and arc fault detection, which increase upfront costs but enhance safety and operational efficiency .
Summary

For a typical residential setup, expect $6–$18 per standard breaker, with total distribution box installation costs ranging from $500 to $2,500, and higher-end or main breaker panels reaching $3,000–$4,000. Specialized breakers like AFCI/GFCI add $30–$80 per unit, and labor costs depend on complexity and local rates. Investing in quality breakers and panels ensures safety, compliance with electrical codes, and long-term reliability .

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