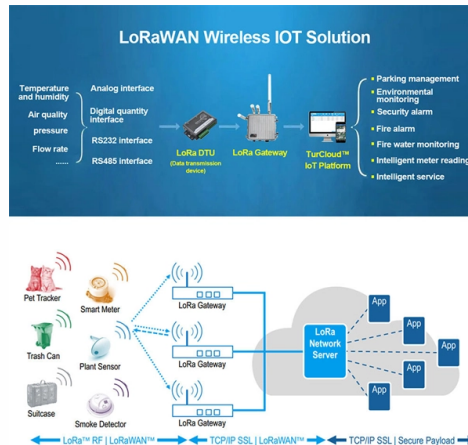


Can the electrical distribution box be placed in the stairwell



Article Overview

Electrical distribution boxes cannot be installed directly over stair steps, and their placement in stairwells is heavily restricted by code and safety requirements.

NEC and Safety Considerations

According to the National Electrical Code (NEC), overcurrent protective devices such as panelboards cannot be installed over the steps of a stairway (NEC 240.24(F)), . The panel must have a clear working space in front of it, typically 30 inches wide, 36 inches deep, and 6.5 feet high, to allow safe access for servicing (NEC 110.26(A)), . Installing a panel directly on stairs or in a confined under-stair area often fails to meet these clearance requirements due to limited floor space and headroom .

Stairwell and Egress Restrictions

Building codes generally prohibit placing electrical panels in stairways or other means of egress unless the equipment specifically serves the stairway, such as lighting or pressurization systems . Stairwells are considered exit routes, and placing a panel there could obstruct safe evacuation. Even if the panel is recessed, it may void the fire rating of the stairway if it is fire-rated .

Practical Installation Options

- Landing Placement: A panel can be installed on a stair landing if it does not interf...

Article Content

Dec 04, 2025

NEC 3.4.4.4 1b

Well, I have re-read this a few times... can someone please clarify what this little section means? Does it mean that, if I

Sep 21, 2025

Electrical Panel Mounting Requirements (Dictated by the NEC)

Perhaps you want to put it somewhere inconspicuous - in a closet or in the bathroom. Whatever the reason is, you

May 14, 2026

2020 NEC, Section 300.25: Wiring Located in Exit Enclosures

Although it might be convenient to place conduit runs in a stairway, that is not permitted by the 2020 NEC. Although

Sep 09, 2025

What is the building code requirement for receptacle outlets at stairs ...

- When is safety glass required for windows at stairs and stair landings? Visit our STAIRS and ELECTRICAL pages

Oct 03, 2025

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

Nov 03, 2025

Can an electric panel be located over stairs?

To safely remove the dead front (cover plate of the panel) and work inside requires a stable surface to stand on and

Aug 18, 2025

New location for main panel

I've been reviewing NEC 2008 - particularly NEC 110.26 - Spaces About Electrical Equipment, and it appears to me

Aug 15, 2025

Panels Under Stairs | Information by Electrical Professionals for ...

There are a couple of requirements from NFPA 101 and the 2020 NEC that prohibit installing conduit or wiring not

Feb 28, 2026

Breaker Panel in Stairwell? | Information by Electrical Professionals ...

Hello, long time no post careful in non-residential and multifamily enclosed stairwells. The IBC generally prohibits

Dec 29, 2025

Run items (ducts, conduits, pipes, etc.) in rated stair wall

There isn't any restriction of what can be inside a fire-resistance-rated assembly in regard to plumbing, electrical, or

Jun 19, 2026

Panel Location??? | Electrician Talk

Can I install a panel in a single dwelling in the basement that has no stairs inside? The only route to access the panel

Mar 02, 2026

stairwell in electrical room?? | Information by Electrical ...

Perhaps, only distribution transformers can be placed there since they generally would not have any conduits going

Nov 12, 2025

Electrical Panel Locations

Learn more about Electrical Panel Locations- A Guide for Placement - MEP Engineering - Master Electrician Services

Dec 21, 2025

What electrical panel locations are prohibited?

- What is the maximum gap allowed between the front of a recessed electric panel box and the wall surface

Aug 10, 2025

Electrical Panel Location Rules | Angi

The electrical panel delivers all your electricity needs, but it might ruin your aesthetic. Here are the electrical panel

Nov 14, 2025

Can an electrical panel be located at a stair landing?

- When should a corroded or damaged electric panel cabinet or disconnect box be replaced?
- What is a tandem

Sep 29, 2025

Electrical panels in rated stairwell

Rated wall construction in stairwell requires panels to be equivalent fire rated as well. Panels will require access by

Oct 20, 2025

Distribution board

A distribution board (also known as panelboard, circuit breaker panel, breaker panel, circuit breaker, electric panel, fuse box or DB

May 19, 2026

Now Including Exits

The text shown in 7.1.3.2.1 (10) (b) in NFPA 101 stated only electrical conduit can serve equipment in the stairwell or stairway, so

Oct 21, 2025

Atlanta Stairwell Panel Box Code Violations You Should Know

Code Violations: Electrical Panel Boxes in Stairwells – What Atlanta Residents Should Know If you're a homeowner, landlord, or

Nov 10, 2025

Are There Restrictions On Where To Mount A Residential Circuit ...

The rules and restrictions on the placement of circuit breaker boxes are meant to make the installation safe, and that

Jul 29, 2025

2021 International Building Code (IBC)

Penetrations into or through interior exit stairways and ramps are prohibited except for the following: 1. Equipment and ductwork

Aug 02, 2025

Electrical Panel Locations

In summary, electrical panels can be located anywhere other than in bathrooms, clothes closets, above steps of a

Apr 01, 2026

How to Choose the Right Location for Your Electrical Panels

Stairs: Electrical panels can be placed under staircases, although this is a less popular choice. If you have sufficient

Nov 08, 2025

Can an electrical panel be located at a stair landing?

Just because you can do it does not mean it's a good idea. We have inspected condo units with the panel at the top

Oct 26, 2025

Conduit in stairwells | Information by Electrical Professionals for ...

Hello, It would be extremely convenient for me to horizontally pass through a stairwell in a commercial property to feed

Dec 12, 2025

2020 NEC, Section 300.25: Wiring Located in Exit Enclosures

Wiring serving fire alarm equipment approved to be within the exit enclosure
Penetrations for electrical wiring are

Contact Us

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