

How to cover the electrical distribution box on the wall



Article Overview

You can safely cover an electrical distribution box using hinged artwork, sliding panels, or movable screens, ensuring full accessibility and compliance with safety codes.

Safety First

Any cover must maintain immediate access to the panel and comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The required working clearance is at least 30 inches wide, centered on the panel, and 36 inches deep from the panel face, with a vertical clearance of 6.5 feet from the floor. Covers must be easily removable without tools and made from non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to prevent fire hazards .

Creative Covering Options

- **Hinged Artwork or Mirrors** Mount a framed canvas, painting, or mirror on piano hinges so it swings open like a cabinet door. This allows instant access while keeping the panel hidden and maintaining the required clearance .
- **Sliding Panels** Construct a lightweight panel on tracks above and below the panel. The panel can glide horizontally to reveal the box instantly. Ensure the tracks do not obstruct the panel door .
- **Freestanding Decorative Screens** Place a movable screen or room divider in front of the panel. It should be lightweight and easily shifted to provide immediate access, without permanently encroaching on the 36-inch clearance zone .
- **Curtains or Fabric Panels** Use lightweight, flame-resistant fabric hung from a ceiling...

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