How to install a secondary distribution box and its price



Overview

Safely expand your home''s electrical capacity. Get the essential planning, code compliance, and detailed installation steps for adding a subpanel.

Key Takeaways

Installing a secondary distribution box typically costs between $1,400 and $4,700+, depending on complexity, amperage, and location.

Cost Breakdown

Equipment and Materials: The price of the distribution box itself varies based on amperage, number of circuits, and whether it is indoor or outdoor. Standard residential panels range from $150 to $1,900 for parts and installation, with most projects falling between $450 and $1,500 for a 100–125A service. Outdoor or higher-capacity boxes, especially for 200A service, can cost $3,000–$6,000 including new meter sockets and breakers.

Labor: Electricians typically charge $50–$130 per hour, plus service call fees of $100–$200. Labor costs increase with complex wiring, long conduit runs, or difficult access to the installation site. Permits and Code Compliance: Local building codes may require permits, inspections, or upgrades to meet safety standards.

Permit fees vary by region and can add 5–15% to the total cost in urban areas. Additional Factors: Location: Outdoor installations or weather-resistant enclosures carry higher costs. Wiring Complexity: Extensive rewiring, rerouting, or splitting an existing supply line increases labor and material costs.

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Customization: Integration with smart meters, surge protection, or specialized labeling can raise the price. Secondary Meter Requirement: Adding a second meter for rental units or separate circuits can cost $1,400–$4,700+, depending on whether a new line is needed or the existing supply can be split.

Typical Scenarios

Basic Residential Upgrade: 100–125A indoor panel, minimal rewiring, costs around $1,200–$2,500 including labor and materials.

High-

Capacity Outdoor Installation: 200A panel with new meter socket, durable enclosure, and moderate rewiring, costs $3,000–$6,000. Secondary Distribution for Rental or Garage: Adding a separate meter and panel can range $1,400–$4,700+, depending on complexity and distance from the main supply.

Summary

The total cost of a secondary distribution box installation depends on panel size, amperage, location, labor complexity, and permit requirements. For most residential applications, expect $1,400–$4,700+, with higher-end installations for outdoor, high-capacity, or multi-unit setups. Proper planning and consultation with a licensed electrician can help optimize costs and ensure compliance with local electrical codes.

Article Content

How to Add a Subpanel to Your Electrical System

Safely expand your home''s electrical capacity. Get the essential planning, code compliance, and detailed installation steps for adding a subpanel.

How to Add Another Breaker Box (Subpanel)

Master the safe installation of a home subpanel. Detailed guide on load calculation, NEC compliance, grounding, and essential wiring procedures.

The installation requirements for the distribution box

Distribution boxes are used for power distribution, circuit protection and cable management, while junction boxes are only used for wire connection and branching.

Electrical Subpanel Installation by Certified Electricians

A subpanel is a secondary electrical panel that gets power from your main service panel. It distributes electricity to a specific area, such as a garage, basement, workshop, or detached building.

Complete Guide: Installing and Wiring a Sub Panel Box Safely and ...

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Distribution Box Replacement Cost Guide 2026

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How To Install A Second Circuit Breaker Box From The Main

When you run out of space in your electrical service panel (also called a breaker box), you have two choices: have a professional upgrade the service panel or install a subpanel yourself.

How to Install a Distribution Box—A Comprehensive Instruction

Whether you are an electrical contractor or a construction brigade, knowing how to properly and safely install distribution boxes is the basis of ensuring the safe operation of the entire

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