

Distance from the front of the lighting distribution box



Overview

The working space must extend at least 36 inches deep, measured outward from the front of the panel. That 36-inch figure applies to equipment rated up to 150 volts to ground under the simplest installation conditions. The NEC, published by the National Fire Protection Association, is the baseline safety standard for electrical installations across all 50 states, though local jurisdictions often adopt it with modifications. 1 As of early 2026, 25 states enforce the 2023 edition while 20 others still operate under. Working space: The front clearance, side clearance, and height clearance requirements for electrical equipment that provide a safe area for maintenance, inspections, and other work. Dedicated space: The space equal to the width and depth of electrical equipment in addition to the space extending. These requirements vary depending on whether the electrical equipment is rated at (1) 1,000 volts or less (See, Article #2) or (2) over 1,000 volts. For instance, OSHA's Table R-6 specifies minimum approach distances for various voltage ranges, ensuring workers adhere to safe practices when operating near live electrical parts.

Article Content

OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: Guide

OSHA and the National Electrical Code (NEC) specify that electrical panels must have a minimum clearance of 36 inches in depth, 30 inches in width, and 78 inches in height. These dimensions ...

NEC Article 110.34: Electrical Room "Basics"

Minimum clearances are established for work spaces in front of high voltage - electrical equipment such as switchboards, control panels, switches, circuit breakers, switchgear and motor controllers. These ...

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

The depth of working space, which you measure from the enclosure front (not the live parts), cannot be less than the distances in Table 110.26 (A) (1). These distances are determined by voltage-to-ground ...

Minimum Approach Distance Chart

The minimum approach distance chart defines safe working distances to prevent arc flash injuries. Based on NFPA 70E and OSHA standards, it helps protect electrical workers by ...

A Complete Guide to NEC Article 314 on Electrical Boxes and Conduit ...

Box fill violations are among the most common inspection failures, so careful calculation is a must. Too many times it is discovered that there are too many conductors without any grace ...

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 the face of the enclosure. This 3-foot depth is the minimum ...

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and ...

Front clearance: There should be a minimum of 3 feet of clearance at the front of all electrical equipment, including panelboards, switches, breakers, starters, transformers, etc. Note that all panel ...

Electrical Clearances: Requirements and Safe Distances

NEC Section 110.26 spells out three dimensions for this space. The working space must extend at least 36 inches deep, measured outward from the front of the panel. That 36-inch figure applies to ...

Electrical Panel Clearances | Requirements Explained!

The panel should be accessible and have enough room in front of it so that an electrician can open the door and work safely. This area needs to remain clear at all times. With that being said, there ...

UFC 3-550-01 Exterior Electrical Power Distribution, with Change ...

Where new overhead distribution is required, route the overhead distribution along roadways and other major topographical features; the poles must be accessible for future maintenance or work.

Contact Us

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