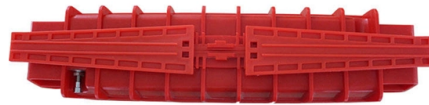


Household surface-mounted electrical box



Overview

Surface-mount Electrical Boxes at Lowes.com Having the right electrical box shape and size can help support consistent installation results. Browse our elec.

Key Takeaways

Surface-mounted electrical boxes provide a safe, accessible, and versatile solution for housing electrical connections in residential settings. Overview

Surface-mounted electrical boxes are designed to enclose electrical wiring, switches, outlets, and other devices, offering protection from dust, moisture, and accidental contact while keeping wiring organized and accessible . Unlike recessed boxes, they are mounted directly on the wall or ceiling surface, making them ideal for retrofit projects, exposed wiring, or areas where wall cavities are not accessible .

Materials and Construction

Surface boxes are available in plastic, metal, and fiberglass:

- Plastic (thermoplastic): Lightweight, impact-resistant, and often self-extinguishing; ideal for indoor use and easy installation .
- Metal (pre-galvanized steel or die-cast aluminum): Durable, suitable for high-traffic areas, and provides grounding for electrical systems .



- Fiberglass: Resistant to corrosion and suitable for damp or outdoor environments .
- Sizes and Configurations

Choosing the right size depends on the number of devices and wiring complexity:

- Single-gang boxes: For one switch or outlet.
- Multi-gang boxes: For multiple switches or outlets; allow more wiring space and easier connections .
- Depth considerations: Ensure enough room for wire nuts and connectors to prevent overcrowding .

Installation Considerations

- Wall types: Can be mounted on drywall, concrete, brick, or wood using appropriate anchors or screws .
- Horizontal or vertical mounting: Both are possible; choose orientation based on device layout and accessibility .
- Outdoor use: Select weatherproof boxes with IP ratings, gasketed covers, and proper sealing to protect against moisture and debris .

Safety and Compliance

- Ensure boxes are UL-listed or meet local electrical codes for safety .
- Use wire clamps and secure connections to prevent loose wiring .
- Regularly inspect outdoor boxes for wear or damage to maintain protection .

Recommended Products

- Leviton 42777-1WA Surface Mount Backbox: Durable thermoplastic, snap-together design, suitable for single-gang applications .
- Sigma Electric 14250WH 1/2-Inch 3 Hole 1-Gang Box: Impact-resistant, self-extinguishing thermoplastic, compatible with Sigma cover plates .
- RACO pre-galvanized steel boxes: Ideal for multiple device installations, with pre-tapped mounting holes for easy installation .

Key Takeaways

Surface-mounted electrical boxes are versatile, safe, and easy to install, making them suitable for both new and retrofit home electrical projects. When selecting a box, consider material, size, wall type, indoor/outdoor use, and compliance with safety standards to ensure a reliable and long-lasting installation .

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