

How to handle the relocation of the distribution box



Overview

One alternative might be to make the old panel a subpanel of the new one, at least as an initial cut-over stopgap.

Key Takeaways

Relocating a distribution box requires careful planning, power disconnection, wiring rerouting, and strict adherence to electrical codes to ensure safety and functionality.

1. Planning and Assessment

Before any physical work, assess the current setup and determine the new location. Consider accessibility, ventilation, future expansions (like solar panels or EV chargers), and compliance with local electrical codes such as NEN 1010 and NEN 3140 standards . Map the existing wiring, main switch, earth rod, and connections to understand the scope of the relocation .

2. Obtain Permits and Check Regulations

Check with your local building department to determine if a permit is required. Most regions mandate inspections for relocating permanent electrical systems . Ensure the new location meets code requirements, avoiding damp areas, bathrooms, or cramped spaces .

3. Disconnect Power Safely



Switch off the main power supply and verify the absence of voltage using a two-pole voltage tester or non-contact voltage tester . This step is critical to prevent electrocution. Confirm the tester works by performing a “live-dead-live” check on a known live outlet .

4. Prepare the New Location

Mark the new box location on the wall, ensuring it is level and plumb. Calculate the required box volume according to the number and gauge of conductors to prevent overcrowding and overheating . Ensure the new box is accessible for future maintenance.

5. Reroute Wiring

If the existing cables are too short, install an accessible junction box at the original location to extend wiring safely . Replace old wiring with flame-retardant cables that comply with current standards . Carefully route the wires to the new box, maintaining proper separation and avoiding sharp bends.

6. Install the Distribution Box

Mount the new distribution box securely, connect the main switch, earth leakage circuit breaker, fuses, and other protective devices. Ensure all connections are tight and correctly labeled . Test the installation with appropriate measuring equipment to certify safety and functionality.

7. Inspection and Testing

After installation, have the system inspected by a certified electrician or local authority to ensure compliance with safety codes. Test all circuits to confirm proper operation and verify that protective devices function correctly .

8. Safety Considerations

- Always wear insulated gloves and safety goggles.
- Avoid working alone; have someone nearby in case of emergencies.
- Never bypass safety devices or attempt concealed splices without an accessible junction box . Following these steps ensures a safe, code-compliant, and functional relocation of your distribution box, minimizing risks of electrical hazards and future maintenance issues.

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I have got costs for my distributor and supplier to move my feed/meter positions and need the tails moving (obviously)

Size determination, installation method and wiring mode of distribution ...

The distribution box is the central hub of the home circuit and the general control of our daily power consumption. It is an

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Yes, as long as the distribution box is rated to handle the total load. Always check the manufacturer's specifications. How often

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