

Prices of distribution boxes and circuit breakers



Overview

The price you pay will hinge on amperage, number of circuits, wiring conditions, and whether a permit is required.

Key Takeaways

Circuit breakers in distribution boxes typically cost \$6–\$18 per standard unit, with total panel installation ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 depending on amperage, type, and labor.

Individual Circuit Breaker Costs

- Standard single-pole breakers: 15A units cost \$6–\$12, 20A units \$7–\$14, and 30A units \$10–\$18 depending on brand and features. Bulk purchases can reduce per-unit cost to \$4–\$8 .

- AFCI (Arc Fault) and GFCI (Ground Fault) breakers: These specialized units range from \$30–\$80 per breaker for 15A–30A ratings, providing enhanced safety for bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoor circuits .

- Labor for installation: Installing or replacing a breaker typically costs \$75–\$200, with more advanced breakers or main panels raising total costs to \$110–\$360 for residential setups .

Distribution Box / Panel Costs

- Basic residential panels: Start around \$500, suitable for small homes or offices .

- Mid-range panels: Include additional circuits, better materials, and weather-resistant enclosures, costing \$1,000–\$2,500 .

- High-end or main breaker panels: Larger 200A mains or smart panels can reach \$3,000–\$4,000 including permits and professional installation .

Factors Affecting Pricing

- Amperage and number of circuits: Higher amperage panels and more circuits increase both breaker and panel costs.
- Breaker type: Standard, AFCI, GFCI, or tandem breakers differ in price due to safety features and certification requirements.
- Brand and quality: Premium brands like Square D, Eaton, and Leviton may cost more but offer reliability and compliance with electrical codes.
- Installation complexity: Labor costs vary with panel accessibility, existing wiring conditions, and local permit requirements.
- Additional features: Modern panels may include surge protection, smart monitoring, modular designs, and arc fault detection, which increase upfront costs but enhance safety and operational efficiency .

Summary

For a typical residential setup, expect \$6–\$18 per standard breaker, with total distribution box installation costs ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, and higher-end or main breaker panels reaching \$3,000–\$4,000. Specialized breakers like AFCI/GFCI add \$30–\$80 per unit, and labor costs depend on complexity and local rates. Investing in quality breakers and panels ensures safety, compliance with electrical codes, and long-term reliability .

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