

Is there an electrical distribution box under the stairs of the duplex apartment

Panelboards contain circuit breakers that are overcurrent devices. Section 240.24 (F) prohibits overcurrent protective devices from being installed/located over the steps of a stairway.

Plans submitted after Jan 1, 2026 will be reviewed under the 2025 codes (including Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Residential, Fire, CALGreen, and Energy).

Although not as common, some homes have sufficient space under the stairs to accommodate an electrical panel. However, if the area is too cramped, installation should be avoided.

Are these stairs in a rated exit enclosure? Do these panelboards only serve stair related loads? There are a couple of requirements from NFPA 101 and the 2020 NEC that prohibit installing ...

There is rarely that much clear floor area in an under-stair closet for a panel, or that much headroom. And an appliance in the closet, such as a water heater, cannot infringe on the required area.

Under staircases - although less of a popular choice, some stairways can provide sufficient space and easy access for the electrical panel to be installed there.

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In summary, electrical panels can be located anywhere other than in bathrooms, clothes closets, above steps of a stairway or in fire-rated partitions or area separation walls as long as the ...

I've looked through my 2020 and 2023 handbooks, but I can't find anything about under stairs being prohibited. This is a new one for me though, so I'd like to know what you think.

I have a renovation on an existing 3 story, type 3B construction, R-2 six unit apartment building. The owner wants to put electrical panels in the rated stairwell.

Electrical panels can be placed under staircases, although this is a less popular choice. If you have sufficient space under the staircases, you can choose this area.

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