

Price of a secondary distribution box with electricity meter

Article Overview

Installing a second electricity meter in a secondary distribution box typically costs between \$1,400 and \$6,000, depending on complexity, service size, and utility coordination.

Overview of Costs

The total cost of installing a second meter involves several components: the utility company fees, licensed electrician labor and materials, and local permit or inspection fees . For a standard residential installation, the cost generally ranges from \$1,400 to \$4,700, while more complex projects, including service upgrades or long conduit runs, can push costs up to \$6,000 or more .

Key Cost Factors

- o Meter and Meter Box: New meter boxes range from \$50 to \$750 depending on amperage, with 200A outdoor weatherproof units costing more . The utility provides the meter itself, but the property owner typically pays for the meter base and associated hardware .
- o Labor: Electricians charge \$85-\$150 per hour, with typical installations requiring 6-20 hours depending on site access, wiring complexity, and whether a full service upgrade is needed .
- o Service Upgrades: If the existing main service cannot handle the additional load, the utility may require an upgrade (e.g., from 100A to 200A), which increases both labor and material costs .
- o Permits and Inspections: Local building permits and inspections are required to ensure compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and local ordinances .

Installation Process

- o Assessment and Application: Submit an application to the utility to determine feasibility and receive specifications for the new meter .
- o Distribution Box Installation: A licensed electrician installs the secondary distribution board, which holds fuses connecting to the new meter .
- o Wiring and Panel Setup: The electrician runs service entrance conductors from the meter to the secondary panel, separating circuits for the new unit .
- o Inspection and Utility Connection: After municipal inspection, the utility installs the meter and energizes the new service .

Additional Considerations

- o Distance from Main Supply: Longer runs, especially underground, increase material and labor costs .
- o Amperage Requirements: Higher amperage meters and panels cost more due to larger conductors and

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heavier-duty hardware .

o Property Type: Multi-unit properties, ADUs, or commercial workshops may require additional meters and distribution boards, increasing overall costs .

In summary, installing a second electricity meter in a secondary distribution box is a multi-stage process with costs influenced by meter type, service size, labor complexity, utility coordination, and local regulations. For most residential scenarios, expect \$1,400-\$4,700, with more complex installations potentially reaching \$6,000 or higher .

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Types of Distribution Boxes The electrical power distribution boxes are distribution boards or breaker panels.

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