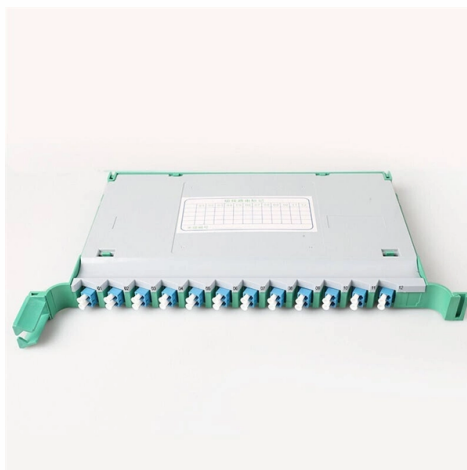


Wiring of the distribution box with meter



Overview

Residential Electric Meter Box Wiring Diagram & 200A Guide Learn how to read a residential electric meter box wiring diagram. Covers 200A service entrance c.

Key Takeaways

A residential distribution box is wired by connecting the utility meter's line conductors to the main disconnect, routing neutral and ground to their respective bars, and distributing power through individual breakers to circuits.

- **Meter Socket (Meter Box):** Holds the utility meter and serves as the entry point for electricity into the home .
- **Main Double-Pole MCB (Main Isolator):** Disconnects both hot lines for safety and distributes power to downstream circuits .
- **Neutral Link / Neutral Bar:** Central point for neutral wires and grounding connections .
- **Single-Pole MCBs:** Protect individual circuits such as lighting and outlets .
- **Grounding Conductor:** Bare or green wire connecting the panel to ground rods or electrodes .

Wiring Steps

- **Safety First:** Ensure the utility company disconnects power and pull the meter before starting work. Obtain necessary permits and follow local electrical codes .
- **Mounting:** Secure the meter box and distribution panel on a wall, typically 4-6 feet above ground, ensuring easy access for utility personnel .

- **Service Entrance Cable:** Run the incoming hot wires (usually black and red) from the meter socket to the line terminals of the main double-pole MCB. Connect the neutral wire to the neutral bar .
 - **Breaker Connections:** Connect outgoing hot wires from the main MCB to the input of single-pole MCBs. Connect neutral wires from the neutral bar to each circuit's neutral terminal .
 - **Grounding:** Bond the neutral bar to the panel's metallic enclosure only in the main panel. Connect the grounding conductor to the enclosure and ensure continuity with external ground rods .
 - **Verification:** Use a multimeter to confirm ~120V from each hot to neutral and ~240V across both hot wires. Ensure all terminations are torque-tightened and, if using aluminum conductors, apply anti-oxidant compound .
 - **Labeling:** Clearly label each breaker according to its load to prevent confusion during maintenance .
- Wire Color Coding
- **Hot (Phase):** Black or red
 - **Neutral:** White or gray
 - **Ground:** Green or bare copper
- Additional Tips
- Keep the main panel close to the meter to minimize voltage drop .
 - Use appropriate wire gauge for the service rating (e.g., 4/0 aluminum or 2/0 copper for 200A service), .
 - Ensure all conduits and knockouts are weatherproof to prevent moisture ingress .
- Following these steps ensures a safe, code-compliant, and efficient connection from the utility meter to the home's distribution circuits.

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