

Electrical distribution box hidden inside the concealed door



Overview

Here are a few easy, clever and non-obstructive ways to hide that bulky and clunky DB box in your HDB BTO.

Key Takeaways

You can hide an electrical distribution box behind a hinged or sliding decorative door while maintaining full accessibility and compliance with safety codes. Safety and Code Requirements

When concealing a DB box, safety and accessibility are paramount. The National Electrical Code (NEC) mandates a clear working space in front of the panel: at least 36 inches deep, 30 inches wide (or the full width of the panel), and 6 feet 6 inches high from the floor to any obstruction. Any cover must be non-permanent and instantly removable without tools, allowing emergency access or maintenance. The panel door must swing open 90 degrees unobstructed, and no storage or furniture should encroach on the clearance zone.

Concealment Methods Hinged Decorative Door

A popular approach is to mount a lightweight frame, artwork, or mirror on butt hinges so it swings open like a cabinet door. Magnetic catches or small latches keep it flush against the wall but allow tool-less access. This method works well in living areas or hallways, blending the panel into the decor.

Shallow Cabinet or Cupboard

You can build a shallow cabinet around the DB box, ensuring the back is open and the front has a hinged door. The cabinet should be movable or shallow enough to maintain the required 36-inch working space and allow the panel door to open fully . Painting the cabinet to match the wall or using laminate finishes can make it blend seamlessly.

Art or Mirror Overlay

Installing a framed painting, tapestry, or mirror over the DB box is a simple, inexpensive solution. The cover can swing or slide away for access, and the panel remains fully visible when needed . This method is ideal for areas where you want the panel to be hidden but still easily accessible.

Pegboard or Feature Frame

A pegboard or decorative frame can conceal the DB box while providing functional storage or display space. This approach is particularly useful in kitchens, utility rooms, or entryways, allowing the panel to remain accessible without compromising aesthetics .

Fabric or Folding Screens

For temporary or flexible concealment, hinged fabric screens or folding panels can be positioned in front of the DB box. They are lightweight, easy to move, and do not interfere with the required clearance .

Key Considerations

- Ensure immediate access in case of emergencies.
- Avoid permanent enclosures or locking mechanisms that restrict access.
- Use non-combustible or low-risk materials near the electrical panel.
- Verify local building codes, as some municipalities may restrict covering residential panels . By combining these methods, you can conceal your electrical distribution box behind a stylish, functional door while fully complying with safety regulations and maintaining emergency accessibility.

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