

How to measure the dimensions of a lighting distribution box



Summary of Content

The size of a lighting distribution box is determined by calculating the total electrical load, the number and size of conductors, device allowances, and ensuring compliance with NEC or regional electrical codes.

Step 1: Calculate Total Load

Start by determining the total power demand of all lighting circuits that will be connected to the distribution box. Sum the wattages of all fixtures and apply realistic usage factors to account for simultaneous operation. For example, if a room has multiple lights, not all may be on at once, so apply a diversity factor to avoid oversizing unnecessarily .

Step 2: Determine Conductor Requirements

Count all conductors entering and leaving the box, including hot, neutral, and grounding wires. Each conductor contributes to the box fill calculation. Include allowances for internal cable clamps and device yokes (like switches or dimmers) as specified in NEC Article 314 .

Step 3: Perform Box Fill Calculation

Use the NEC “box fill” method to calculate the minimum cubic inch volume required:

- Each conductor counts as one unit.
- Up to four grounding conductors count as one unit; additional grounds count as ½ unit each.

Article Content

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In this guide, I'll walk you through a practical, step-by-step process to size your distribution box based on actual load

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Electrical enclosure sizes are not universal, but most manufacturers follow common size families. This guide explains

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