



Main Circuit Panel

AKA the **circuit breaker panel** or the **main electrical service panel**

The primary distribution point for electrical circuits in your home. It connects wires from the utility company to your home's internal electrical system, and splits the primary circuit into subsidiary circuits. The main circuit panel typically provides between 100 and 200 amps of total power, although modern homes with many electrical appliances may require as much as 300 to 400 amps. The main circuit panel is usually located near where the power lines enter your home, either on an inside wall or on an outside wall. It may be combined with the electric meter or separate from it. The main circuit panel has a large metal box that contains a number of switches called **circuit breakers**. These circuit breakers control the flow of electricity to each of the circuits in your home. Each circuit breaker has a label that indicates which area or appliance it serves.

A circuit breaker is a safety device that protects your home from electrical overload or short circuit. If too much current flows through a circuit, the circuit breaker will trip and cut off the power to prevent damage or fire. You can tell if a circuit breaker has tripped by looking at its switch: if it is in the middle or off position, it means it has tripped. To restore power to the circuit, you need to reset the circuit breaker by flipping it back to the on position. However, before you do that, you should find out what caused the circuit breaker to trip and fix the problem. For example, you may have plugged in too many appliances on one circuit, or there may be a faulty wire or outlet somewhere.

If you are not sure where to find the main circuit panel in your home, you can look for clues such as a metal door on a wall, a large gray box near the electric meter, or wires coming out of a conduit pipe. You can also ask an electrician or someone who knows your home well to show you where it is. It is important to know where the main circuit panel is and how it works in case of an emergency or a power outage. You should also label each circuit breaker clearly and keep a flashlight handy near the panel for convenience.