



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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E-5X

Requirements for Residential Electrical Panelboards

INTRODUCTION

Overcurrent protection devices, fuses, circuit breakers, etc. should be located where they are not exposed to physical damage. They are not to be installed where ignitable materials are near enough to catch fire in case of accidental sparking or overheating of such devices. The Code specifically prohibits installation of these devices in residential bathrooms.

Occupants should have ready access to Over Current Protection Devices. They cannot be concealed behind permanent construction. Required working clearances must be maintained from floor to ceiling. A door swing may intrude into the clear area but no storage is allowed.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

A *panelboard* may be installed in a *dwelling* clothes closet that meets the following criteria:

- I. Room area is a minimum 70 square feet.
- II. A smoke detector is installed.
- III. Partitions are installed to delineate clear area.
- IV. Required working clearances are maintained.
- V. A minimum 6'-5" headroom above panel location on sloped ceilings.

GLOSSARY

Bathroom: An area including a basin and one or more of the following: a toilet; a tub; or a shower. (NOTE: Definition per 1998 California Electrical Code)

Dwelling: (NOTE: Definition per 1998 California Electrical Code)

Dwelling unit: One or more rooms for the use of one or more persons as a housekeeping unit with space for eating, living, and sleeping, and permanent provisions for cooking and sanitation.

Multi-Family Dwelling: A building containing three or more dwelling units.

One-Family Dwelling: A building consisting solely of one dwelling unit.

Two-Family Dwelling: A building consisting solely of two dwelling units.

Panelboard: A panel or group of panels assembly consisting of bus bars, automatic overcurrent protection devices, etc designed to be placed in a cabinet or cutout box placed in or against a wall or partition and accessible only from the front.

REFERENCES

1998 California Electric Code Sections 110-26; 240-24; 384-4
Sonoma County Residential Construction Handbook Section 17

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