



200 amp electrical meter panel

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Upgrading your home's electrical service to 200 amps can help support modern power demands. This process involves replacing the electric meter, service wire, and main panel to accommodate increased electrical capacity. Master electrician Scott Caron demonstrates the intricate steps of this two-part upgrade, emphasizing the importance of professional expertise for such a complex and potentially dangerous task.

Safety is paramount when working with electricity. Essential precautions include ensuring power is completely off to the entire building, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, using insulated tools designed for electrical work, and having a clear understanding of local electrical codes and regulations.

Professional electricians handle the necessary permits and inspections for an upgrade to meet regulatory standards. Overlooking these steps can lead to complications, fines, or unsafe conditions.

The local utility company will disconnect the electrical cables from the house and mark the locations of underground lines. They'll also reconnect the cables after the upgrade is complete.

To install the ground rods, have the utility company mark underground lines. Pound two copper ground rods into the ground, spaced 6 feet apart, away from any underground lines. Use a 3-pound sledgehammer to drive the rods fully into the ground. These rods provide a necessary pathway for electrical faults.

The second phase of this upgrade involves replacing the old electrical panel with a new 200-amp version. To remove the old panel, make sure the building's power is completely off. Then, use diagonal-cutting pliers to sever all wires inside the existing panel. Unscrew and remove the old panel from the wall.

Mounting the new panel requires screwing a large 3/4-inch-thick plywood panel to the wall and feeding the SE cable through the top of the new panel. Secure the panel to the plywood, and check that it's level.

After the new panel is installed, have the utility company reconnect the electrical cables to the house. Install the glass meter into the new meter socket and secure the meter cover. This step restores power to the home safely.

Upgrading an electrical service to 200 amps is a task best left to professional electricians. They'll make sure all work complies with local codes and safety standards. Attempting this as a do-it-yourself (DIY) project can be hazardous due to the complexity and electrical dangers involved.

When selecting an electrician, verify their licensing and certifications and check references and reviews. We recommend requesting multiple quotes to compare pricing and services. According to Angi, the average cost to upgrade your electrical panel to 200 amps is between \$1,300 and \$1,600, including the panel and



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installation.

Upgrading to a 200-amp electrical service is a complex but valuable home improvement project. While it requires professional expertise, the benefits of increased capacity, improved safety, and potential increased home value make it a worthwhile investment for many homeowners. Always consult with a licensed electrician to determine if this upgrade is right for your home.

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