



CITY OF FOSTER CITY

Community Development Department

Building Division

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SERVICE PANEL UPGRADE - RESIDENTIAL

Persons performing electrical work must either be a California "C10" Electrical Contractor or the owner property. C10 Contractors having employees need to be state certified.

To obtain permit, submit the following:

- All new service upgrades needs to provide the 9 digit PG&E application number.
- Provide an electrical load calculation ([Residential Electrical Load Calculation Sheet | Foster City California](#))
- Provide [MSP Upgrade Worksheet](#)

Panel requirements:

- The panel shall be labeled by UL or other approved third-party agency.
- The panel shall be labeled as "suitable for service equipment".
- The panel shall have 30" x 36" clear working space in front of the panel. No gas meters or other structures.
- A main disconnect is required if over 6 circuit breaker handles.
- The circuit breakers shall be approved for the panel (see label on panel).
- The circuit breakers shall not exceed the conductor rating.
- 240 volt circuit breakers shall be molded case breakers with integral handle ties.
- Multi-wire circuits shall have handle ties on the breakers.
- Cable bundling over 12" requires reduction in ampacity of circuit breaker.
- Note: Many older services are NEMA Type I panels rated for indoor use only, and are contained in a small wooden enclosure, or "doghouse." New "doghouses" are not allowed. All exterior panels, including those installed in existing doghouses, must be NEMA Type 3 or 3R, rated for outdoors.
- Surface-mounted panels require a ¼ inch air space between them and the wall. Do not caulk the edges of the panel to the wall.
- Semi-flush panels require a listed and approved flange kit that is integrated to the water-resistive barrier (WRB) in the wall. When the wall is stucco, the stucco must be broken back at least 6 inches around the panel. New paper must be lapped in shingle fashion a minimum of 3 inches at sides, top and bottom to the existing paper, and must be lapped over the flashing flange. New wire lath must be secured to studs, and a lath inspection will occur at the same time as the service upgrade inspection.
- Do not apply any stucco until the lath inspection has been approved. Stucco requires application in 3 coats with an interval between coats. Each coat must develop sufficient rigidity to resist cracking before the next coat is applied. The standard recommendation is 7 days after the scratch coat and 3 days after the brown coat. Other intervals are possible depending on weather and job conditions.