

NEC Code for Clearance in Front of Panels

Section 110.26 cheat sheet | summary in our own words | azadtechhub.com

1. Residential panel box (120/240 V)

Dimension	Requirement	Section
Depth	3 ft (36 in.)	110.26(A)(1)
Width	30 in. or panel width, whichever is greater; need not be centered	110.26(A)(2)
Height	6.5 ft or equipment height, whichever is greater	110.26(A)(3)
Door	Opens at least 90 degrees	110.26(A)(2)

2. Depth table, Table 110.26(A)(1)

Voltage to ground	Condition 1	Condition 2	Condition 3
0 to 150 V	3 ft	3 ft	3 ft
151 to 600 V	3 ft	3 ft 6 in. (42 in.)	4 ft (48 in.)

Condition 2 = grounded surface opposite (concrete, brick, tile). Condition 3 = live parts both sides.

3. Keep clear

- No storage in the working space (110.26(B)).
- Dedicated space: panel width and depth, floor to 6 ft above or the structural ceiling. No foreign pipes or ducts (110.26(E)).
- At least one entrance to the working space (110.26(C)); lighting required (110.26(D)).
- Top breaker handle no higher than 6 ft 7 in. (240.24(A)).
- Not in clothes closets, dwelling bathrooms or over stair steps (240.24).

4. Exceptions (read your edition)

- Dead-front equipment with all connections accessible elsewhere.
- Existing dwelling service equipment or panelboards of 200 A or less may have less than 6.5 ft headroom.
- Condition 2 spacing across an aisle for replaced equipment, with written procedures.

5. OSHA

29 CFR 1910.303(g)(1) requires working space in workplaces with a depth table similar to the NEC. Employers must meet OSHA and local code.

Educational summary, not the NEC text. Verify against the edition and local amendments your inspector enforces. Read the NEC free on NFPA's website. © Azad Circuit Hub.