

Price of high and low wires for distribution boxes



AI Overview

Electrical wire prices for distribution boxes vary by type, gauge, and length, typically ranging from \$0.50 to \$3 per foot for standard residential wiring.

Wire Types and Pricing

- Copper Wire:** Most common for residential and commercial distribution boxes due to high conductivity. Prices generally range from \$0.50 to \$3 per foot, depending on gauge (e.g., 12 AWG, 10 AWG, 6 AWG) and insulation type.
- Aluminum Wire:** Less expensive than copper, often used for larger feeders or service entrance wiring. Prices are typically 20–40% lower than copper for the same gauge.
- Specialty Wires:** Includes THHN, XHHW, or armored cable for outdoor or industrial applications. These can cost \$1.50 to \$5 per foot depending on insulation, voltage rating, and environmental protection.

Purchasing Options

- By the Foot:** Ideal for small projects or precise lengths. Many distributors, such as Wire & Cable Your Way, allow custom cuts.
- Bulk Rolls:** More cost-effective for larger installations. Standard rolls range from 250 to 1,000 feet, with per-foot pricing often lower than single-foot purchases.
- Retail Stores:** Home improvement stores like Home Depot carry pre-cut wires and standard rolls, with prices similar to online distributors.

Factors Affecting Cost

- Gauge and Amperage:** Higher amperage circuits require thicker wire, increasing cost.
- Length of Run:** Longer runs require more wire, directly affecting total price.
- Environmental Rating:** Outdoor or wet-location rated wires cost more due to additional insulation.
- Phase and Voltage:** Three-phase or higher-voltage systems may require specialized wire, increasing price.

Practical Example

For a typical residential 100–125A indoor distribution box:

- 12 AWG copper wire for branch circuits: ~\$0.50–\$1 per foot
- 6 AWG copper wire for main feeders: ~\$2–\$3 per foot
- Aluminum alternatives may reduce costs by 20–40% for feeder wires.

By considering wire type, gauge, and inst...

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Breaking down the price into components clarifies where money goes and highlights potential savings opportunities. The table below blends total project ranges with per-unit rates for

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Aluminum serves as a less expensive, lightweight alternative. The American Wire Gauge (AWG) system provides standard wire gauge sizes. The higher the gauge number, the smaller the

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