

Hide an Electrical Box Safely: Checklist

Rules first, then measure, then pick a cover

1. Safety Rules (Read First)

- I can open the panel in a few seconds, with one hand.
- Nothing is nailed, screwed or glued into the panel itself.
- The space in front of the panel is clear. I asked my landlord or checked local code about how much room is needed.
- Nothing flammable (paper, fabric, cardboard) touches the box.
- If the panel is hot, buzzing or smells burnt, I will call a licensed electrician.

2. Measure Your Panel

What	How to measure	Your number
Door width	Edge to edge of the panel door	
Door height	Top to bottom of the panel door	
Sticks out	How far the box stands out from the wall	
Wall space	Free wall beside and above the box	
Clear space in front	Distance to the nearest object in front	

3. Free Fixes (No Product)

- Ask my landlord if I can paint the panel door the wall colour (never paint the breakers, the labels or the door edge).
- Hang art or a mirror NEXT to the panel, not in front.
- Add removable wallpaper or decals around the panel, not on the door.
- Keep the front of the panel clear so it looks planned.

4. Match the Problem to the Cover

Problem	Try this	Check first
Want it to look like framed art	Hinged art frame	Panel size, sticks-out limit, nails in wall

Renting, no holes allowed	Magnetic cover	It lifts off in one pull, adhesive on wall only
Need a drop zone for keys	Cabinet with shelf and hooks	Drilling, hooks never block the door
Small round box left from a removed fixture	Round cover plate	Check the box type and size first
Bigger panel, framed look	Hinged wood-look cover	Measure the panel and the depth
Not sure yet	Do the free fixes first	Try them for one week

5. Questions for My Landlord

- May I paint the wall and the panel door?
- May I put small nails or adhesive on the wall around it?
- How much clear space does my building need in front of the panel?
- Who do I call if the panel has a problem?

6. Cover Budget

Item	Budget	Priority (1 to 3)	Bought?
Hinged art frame			
Magnetic cover			
Cabinet with shelf			
Hinged wood-look cover			
Round box cover plate			
Total			

This checklist is not electrical advice. When in doubt, ask a licensed electrician.