

Price of homemade distribution box support column



Overview

Comprehensive guide to designing, calculating loads, building, and ensuring code compliance for your DIY power distribution system.

Key Takeaways

A homemade distribution box support column typically costs between \$50 and \$150, depending on materials, size, and finish.

For a DIY support column, the main materials include:

- Wood boards: Standard exterior-grade plywood or lumber for the four sides of the column can cost \$20-\$60 depending on thickness and quality .
- Trim and molding: Decorative trim to finish edges and corners adds \$10-\$30.
- Fasteners and adhesives: Nails, screws, and exterior construction adhesive typically cost \$5-\$15.
- Paint or stain: A gallon of exterior paint or stain for finishing the column costs around \$15-\$40 . Optional materials like shims, corner brackets, or weatherproofing sealant may add another \$5-\$20.

Labor and Tools



If you are building the column yourself, labor is free, but you may need tools such as a table saw, miter saw, drill, and nailer. If you need to purchase or rent tools, this could add \$50-\$100 to the project.

Size and Complexity

The cost varies with the height and width of the column. Taller or wider columns require more material, increasing the price. Complex designs with multiple layers of trim or custom shapes will also raise costs.

Summary Estimate

- Basic 4-sided column: \$50-\$80
- Decorative or larger column: \$100-\$150
- Premium finishes or custom designs: \$150+ This estimate is for a homemade, non-load-bearing support column suitable for housing a standard residential distribution box. Commercial distribution boxes themselves can range from \$50 to several hundred dollars depending on capacity and features, so combining the column with the box may increase the total project cost. By carefully selecting materials and keeping the design simple, you can build a functional and aesthetically pleasing support column for under \$100 in many cases.

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