

How to ground the ground wire of a secondary distribution box



Article Overview

Yes, a secondary distribution box (subpanel) still requires a ground wire, which must be separate from the neutral.

Grounding and Neutral Separation

A subpanel is a secondary distribution point that extends electrical service from the main panel. According to the National Electrical Code (NEC), the neutral and ground wires must remain separate in a subpanel. The neutral bus bar should be isolated from the panel enclosure, while a separate grounding bus bar is bonded to the enclosure and connected to the grounding system. This separation prevents neutral current from flowing on metal parts, which could energize the subpanel chassis or connected metal components, creating a safety hazard.

Ground Wire Connection

The subpanel must have a grounding conductor that connects back to the main panel's ground bus. If the subpanel is in the same building as the main panel, a single ground wire is sufficient, sized according to NEC Table 250.122. This wire ensures that fault currents have a low-impedance path back to the source, allowing overcurrent protection devices to trip quickly.

Grounding Electrodes for Detached Buildings...

Article Content

May 22, 2026

Correct Connection Method Of Grounding Wire Of

Generally, copper core wire is selected as the ground wire and connected to the PE wiring bar. When connecting, it is necessary to strip the wire

Jul 15, 2026

JLC Field Guide: Grounding

JLC Field Guide: Grounding The purpose of grounding is safety: A ground wire generates a short circuit and trips the circuit breaker or fuse when voltage is leaking improperly to the electrical

Oct 01, 2025

How to Ground an Electrical Panel: Step-by-Step (NEC 250)

How to ground an electrical panel correctly per NEC Article 250 — grounding electrode conductor, ground rods, bonding, and code-compliant installations.

Sep 25, 2025

How to Ground Sub Panel: Properly Ground Your Subpanel Equipment

Understanding the Grounding Sub Panel Understanding the Grounding Sub Panel The installation of a ground bar in the box, separately connected to the main panel's ground bar, is the

Sep 29, 2025

Grounding Paper

Effective grounding, or earthing, of the distribution system neutral is necessary to achieve several objectives, the most important of which is the safety of the public and utility personnel. The

Mar 22, 2026

Why are Neutral and Ground Wires Bonded in a Subpanel?

Before diving into the details, we must understand the roles of neutral and ground wires in a power and distribution system. Neutral Wire: The neutral wire completes the electrical circuit and provides a

May 30, 2026

Grounding and UL 508A Standards

Additional rules for the grounding and bonding of industrial control panels include the sizing of ground conductors and the conditions that dictate when power supplies and transformers

Dec 10, 2025

NEC Basics: Connections and Continuity of Equipment Grounding ...

Learn how to connect equipment grounding conductors to receptacles and keep their continuity in boxes.

Nov 07, 2025

Subpanel Grounding: Answers to Common Questions

subpanel grounding violations. The grounded conductors and the equipment grounds are connected to the same terminal bar, contrary to Rule #1. In the event of a ground fault, the neutral wires can

Apr 06, 2026

The Basics of Bonding and Grounding Transformers

The effective ground-fault current path To understand the concept of bonding and grounding for safety, the installer must know that for normal load current, short circuit current, or ground-fault current to

Sep 15, 2025

DISTRIBUTION BOX

Attach a ground wire from one of the threaded studs (A) at the bottom of the housing, to the mounting plate (B). Attach a second grounding wire from the mounting plate (B), to the factory

Jun 07, 2026

Distribution System Grounding

It is recommended to ground the neutral at various strategic locations in distribution substations, overhead lines and underground cables, distribution transformers, and all loads.

Oct 18, 2025

Connecting a Secondary Distribution Panel

The fourth wire would be for the neutral conductor. The neutral can be bonded to ground at exactly one place in a service. This is usually done in the main panel or at the meter base. In order

Sep 23, 2025

How to Ground a Subpanel in a Detached Building in 4 Steps

A subpanel helps distribute electricity throughout your home, but to enjoy this advantage, you must ground it first for safety. Grounding a subpanel in a detached building typically demands

Feb 18, 2026

The Basics of Grounding and Bonding

Article 250 of the NEC covers the grounding and bonding of electrical systems. By definition, as well as by function, grounding and bonding are not the same thing. However, they do work closely together

May 21, 2026

How to Properly Ground a Sub Panel

Master the NEC requirements for sub panel grounding. Detailed guide on neutral separation, bonding, and grounding electrode systems.

Jan 26, 2026

Transformer Grounding: Navigating NEC Article 250 and Separately ...

Proper Grounding Procedures Forming a ground connection with a transformer is easy. This ground connection must be made using a system bonding jumper and formed at or before the

Mar 12, 2026

Electrical Grounding Homeowner's Guide and How It Works

Maybe you've seen, and even connected, the green "ground wire" in a DIY electrical project. Or maybe grounding is a completely new concept to you, and you're looking for a simple

Jun 26, 2026

Why are Neutral and Ground Wires Separated in a

Install a separate grounding bus bar if needed, and connect the neutral and grounding wires from the main panel to the isolated neutral bus and grounding

Jan 25, 2026

Grounding Practices in Power Distribution Systems

These grounding systems typically consist of ground rods or plates that are attached to the structure. Electrical fault currents and lightning strikes can be safely

Jan 28, 2026

How To Ground A Circuit Breaker Box Safely: A Step-by-Step DIY Guide

Q1: How do I know if my circuit breaker box is grounded? A: Look for a thick bare copper or green wire extending from the grounding bus bar inside your breaker box and running to an

Mar 28, 2026

Grounding System Installation Standards for Distribution Boxes and ...

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, this comprehensive guide will give you practical insights into proper grounding techniques, with a special focus on how selecting quality

Sep 16, 2025

The Basics of Grounding & Bonding Electrical Systems | EC& M

2) For stabilizing the voltage to earth during normal operation. Thus, improper grounding could result in equipment damage and fire — and the voltage-to-ground would be unstable and not usable. The

Feb 14, 2026

How to Ground Electrical Wires

How to Ground Wires in Metal Boxes In a system with metal boxes, the pigtail method is considered the most secure. In this arrangement, both the receptacle and metal box are grounded.

Mar 28, 2026

Understanding Grounding of Electrical Systems | NFPA

The earth itself is not considered an effective ground-fault current path, so sticking the wire in the ground is not enough. Grounding is the very

Nov 13, 2025

GROUND GRID SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE AND SCOPE IPMENT, STRUCTURES, ETC. IN ELECTRICAL STATIONS INCLUDING TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SUBSTAT GROUNDING OF NON-CURRENT CARRYING

Oct 07, 2025

Grounding of Services, based on the 2023 NEC

The service neutral conductor provides the effective ground-fault current path to the source to remove dangerous voltage from a ground fault by opening the circuit overcurrent protective device (OCPD)

Jan 10, 2026

Distribution System Grounding

Improper grounding in secondary systems can cause safety issues including fire and failure of equipment in homes. Most common problems are open secondary neutral, load incorrectly

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://iiss.co.za>

Email: sales@iiss.co.za

Phone: +27 63 174 2895

Address: Unit 8, Innovation Park, 15 Rivonia Road, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196, South Africa

This document is for informational purposes only. Specifications subject to change without notice.

