

The gap at the junction box connection point is too large



Overview

When the hole for a junction box is too large, use a metal cover plate designed to cover excess space. These plates have screw holes aligning with the box's mounting points. This mismatch leaves an exposed gap of drywall, plaster, or paint damage surrounding the electrical junction box. The resulting visibility of the raw cutout and wiring is not only unsightly but also compromises the finished look of the installation. It's a common issue, and it's frustrating because you might feel like you've chosen the perfect new. The main issue I'm running into is that the previous holes for the boxes are ever so slightly too large. It holds about 21 cubic inches. These boxes must be grounded and have safety. The National Electrical Code (NEC), published as NFPA 70, sets minimum safety standards for electrical junction boxes in residential and commercial buildings. Every state has adopted some version of the NEC, though the specific edition in force and any local amendments depend on your jurisdiction's.



Article Content

Sep 04, 2025

Holes for Old Work Electrical Boxes Slightly Too Big

In my bathroom, I'm replacing a couple of old boxes with old work boxes. The main issue I'm running into is that the previous holes for the boxes

Aug 16, 2025

How to Extend Junction Box Properly without Space Issues

Learn how to safely and properly extend an electrical junction box to accommodate more wires or devices without creating space issues. Follow our

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How to Size a Junction Box | Polycase

Wondering how to size a junction box? Find out how to use the NEC code to determine the size of the junction box that your application requires.

Oct 01, 2025

Light fixture mounting bracket too small to attach to

Installing a ceiling fixture. With the other fixtures I installed the bracket just screwed into the box. This one the bracket width is too small to screw in, the

Jul 21, 2025

How to Install an Electrical Junction Box

If your house has visible wiring splices or if you need to add a new splice to extend a circuit, follow these simple steps to

Feb 10, 2026

NEC Code of Junction Box Requirements Made Simple

If the box opening is less than 8 inches in any direction, each wire must stick out at least 3 inches from the box opening. This extra length helps you make safe and

May 19, 2026

ELECTRICAL Engineer USA CoMMuNiTy | Existing ceiling opening is

Existing ceiling opening is JUST too large for my round junction box, any ideas on what would work? Hanging a stain glass lamp from the ceiling, not very heavy. Former owners hacked at it making the...

Oct 13, 2025

Junction Box Hole Too Big? Expert Fix & How-To Guide

When the hole for a junction box is too large, use a metal cover plate designed to cover excess space. These plates have screw holes aligning with the box's mounting points. First, turn off power, then

Dec 19, 2025

Is this Junction Box too full?

I'm installing a flood lamp on my outdoor garage. So, I went to take look at the junction box, and to my surprise, it appears oddly filled: Filled to the

May 13, 2026

What To Do When Your Light Fixture Doesn't Cover the

Here is the fix for when your new light fixture is too small to cover the junction box on your wall or ceiling. We take on the dilemma of when you're light

Mar 23, 2026

external junction box too large

I thought about painting the sides of the box, but would rather not go that route unless absolutely necessary. Do they make them smaller than 5" that

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Electrical Junction Box Code Requirements: NEC Rules

A box recessed too deeply behind drywall is one of the most common residential inspection failures, and it's easily fixed with an inexpensive box

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What to Do When a Light Fixture Does Not Cover the Hole

Resolving this common issue requires understanding the underlying cause and applying a suitable covering or surface repair technique. The discrepancy between the fixture and the hole

Dec 14, 2025

Existing opening is too large for my cut-in box.. Any

I like to use metal boxes with the expanding wings for cut-in work, but the existing opening happens to be too tall for the vertical tabs on the box to grab. I'd rather

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Electricians | Existing ceiling opening is JUST too large for my round ...

Existing ceiling opening is JUST too large for my round junction box, any ideas on what would work? Hanging a stain glass lamp from the ceiling, not very heavy. Former owners hacked at it

Aug 24, 2025

Old Work Electrical Box: How to Correct Crowded

So, I decided to remove the old box and put in a bigger one. Below, I'll show you how to do it, too. This project is based on working with drywall — if

Dec 08, 2025

How to Install a Junction Box

A junction box provides a code-approved place to house wire connections, whether for outlets, switches, or splices. Here's how to install one.

Apr 16, 2026

NEC Electrical Junction Box Rules – Complete

These rules define when you must install a box, how large it must be, how you must install it, and how inspectors evaluate compliance. This guide

Nov 24, 2025

How to Wire a Junction Box for Socket and Light Circuits

Learn how to wire a junction box to provide power to additional sockets, lights and switches easily and safely

Jul 13, 2025

Demystifying Junction Box Wiring: Everything You Need

Learn about junction box electrical wiring, including how to install and troubleshoot wiring connections in junction boxes for electrical circuits.

Jul 06, 2025

25-Point Instrumentation Junction Box (JB) Wiring and

Ensure safe and compliant instrumentation JB wiring in process plants. Use this detailed 25-point checklist for inspection, termination, and QA verification.

Apr 02, 2026

external junction box too large

Electrical - AC & DC - external junction box too large - Hello! First time poster here, hoping I can get some advice for my new light fixture. The

Jan 08, 2026

How to Install a Junction Box Safely and Correctly 2026

Learn how to install a junction box safely, from choosing the right box and mounting it correctly to making secure splices and following basic code-safe

Dec 28, 2025

Common Issues with Junction Boxes and How to Fix Them

Discover common issues with junction boxes and how to fix them. Learn about flameproof box problems, types and maintenance tips. Read the full

Jul 16, 2025

Junction Box too big for new light fixture plate! HELP!

So the junction box is huge compared to my new Hampton Bay 3-Light Track Fixture. It was an oh so over used "boob" light which explains the

Jun 30, 2025

Large maintenance free junction boxes

However I can't find a junction box or wago connector big enough. I need something that can handle 10x 2 core+ earth cables coming in from each room so I was thinking of large wago box

Apr 17, 2026

Is this junction box installation acceptable?

This box has been presented supplementary to all the hidden connections in the ceiling that were used to modify the existing circuits. There is a

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