

# ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT THEFT MITIGATION

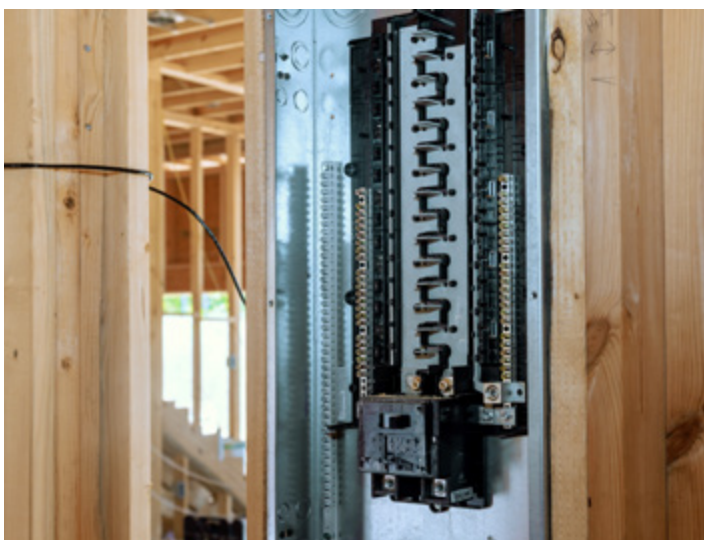
## The Concern

The rising cost of construction materials, including electrical components, has become a significant concern. Factors such as supply chain disruptions, increased demand, and economic challenges have driven up prices, with many items experiencing price increases of 20% to 60%, and some more than doubling in value.

This increased value has made electrical equipment a prime target for theft on construction sites. These items are highly appealing to thieves due to their compact size and high demand. While large items like copper wire spools are still occasionally stolen, smaller and more valuable items, such as circuit breakers, are easier to steal. For example, a box of breakers that once cost a few hundred dollars can now be worth several thousand.

## Theft Day or Night

Theft of these materials does not just occur during non-working hours. Many construction sites are unmonitored during the day, allowing individuals to pose as workers, take valuable electrical components, and leave unnoticed. A hard hat and vest can provide easy access to thousands of dollars' worth of equipment.



## Mitigation Strategies

***To reduce theft during working hours, site access control is critical. Consider the following measures:***

- ◆ **Secure Storage:** Place the electrical contractor's materials in areas of the project that are not easily accessible.
- ◆ **Controlled Installation Areas:** Install electrical components only in areas with lockable doors. Access to these areas should be restricted to authorized persons within the construction management team.
- ◆ **Enhanced Monitoring:** Inform your securityguards and / or camera surveillance provider about critical connex boxes or areas where materials are stored / installed. Additional equipment or protocols may be needed to better detect and respond to intrusions within these high-risk zones.

By implementing these measures, construction sites can significantly reduce the risk of theft and protect valuable electrical equipment.

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