

Informative Note: 6-0

Services and service equipment

Issue Date: November 19, 2020

Based on Manitoba Electrical Code (2018) 13th edition

This informational note is designed to provide guidance to installers and Manitoba Hydro staff with the selection of a suitable location for your electrical service.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information being provided. However, in the event of a discrepancy between this informative note and the governing Manitoba Electrical Code, The Manitoba Electrical Code shall take precedence.

Remember, the Manitoba Electrical Code is constantly being updated. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the latest code requirements before you begin your installation.

Failure to adhere to these installation requirements may result in extra costs and delays in energizing your electrical service.

Requirements:

Site Conditions: The following geographical and environmental conditions must be considered when proposing or selecting points of delivery and service locations:

- Level and flat ground: Sloping ditches and hills should be avoided where slippery, wet or other uncontrollable environmental conditions prevent ready access without risk of injury. This includes wide steep sloping grades immediately adjacent to service equipment.



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- **Dry locations:** Electrical service equipment should not be installed in locations subject to accumulations of standing or flowing water. An alternate location should be selected when standing water or seasonal moisture accumulation presents a potential threat to the equipment or maintenance personnel. Note: Workplace Safety requires GFCI protection in such cases where it is impracticable to relocate equipment.
- **Free of vegetation or physical barriers:** Vegetation should be controlled by clearing and maintaining access paths. Avoid proximity to fencing or other obstacles preventing ready access or limiting the required minimum working space.
- **Secure footing:** The site must have secure footing. If landscaping is required to provide secure footing, 19mm (3/4 inch) limestone or other durable materials not subject to erosion or moisture damage should be used (avoid sand or loose materials).
- **Prevent erosion:** Install landscape ties or other substantial structures to prevent erosion of footing material as well as to prevent collapse of the service equipment and structure due to inadequate drainage or potential for the accumulation of water adjacent to the equipment.

Installations:

The following must be considered when installing service equipment:

- **Be Code Compliant:** All installations must meet the requirements of the current edition of the Manitoba Electrical Code



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- Provide safe working space: Maintain a minimum of 1 meter working space surrounding electrical service and distribution equipment with secure footing. Avoid undue hazards related to vegetation, physical barriers or heights created by raised landscaping (i.e. trip or fall hazards).
- Maintain appropriate equipment heights: Service equipment should not be installed at heights greater than 2 meters from grade. Meter sockets shall be installed not less than 1.2 meters and not more than 1.8 meters above finished grade to the center of the meter socket as per the Manitoba Hydro Customer Metering Standards.
- Use or construction of appropriate structures: Structures should be of metal or solid treated post a minimum dimension of 150 mm X 150 mm (6" x 6") construction, properly secured to a depth sufficient to maintain stability of the electrical equipment to prevent undue strain on wiring and terminations.
- Equipment must have appropriate marking: All electrical service and distribution equipment shall be clearly marked as per the Manitoba Electrical Code to indicate the portion of the installation or equipment that it controls. Operating voltages and maximum fuse size should be indicated on all service and distribution equipment (particularly where installed conductor size is less than the switch maximum rating).
- All equipment must be approved and shall be of a kind or type and rating approved for the specific purpose for which it is to be employed.

Available in accessible formats upon request

