

What's the purpose of the transformers and pedestals?

Transformers and pedestals are necessary components of your electrical service. The residential transformer reduces high voltage from PSO's main distribution lines to a usable level for your home. Pedestals contain electrical connections.

What's the issue with landscaping around transformers?

From time to time PSO personnel must gain access to these devices through a door or lid as shown below for maintenance or for restoring power.



PSO personnel need a clear place to stand to operate an energized transformer with an insulated tool.

It is important that at least three feet (3') of clearance be maintained on the sides of these devices and a minimum of ten feet (10') on the door side.

PSO may need to remove landscaping when accessing the enclosures if this clearance is not maintained. Obstructions to these enclosures can also cause delays when restoring electric service.

For More Information

Please call PSO's Infoline — 1-877-367-6815 — if you have any questions or need more information. The Infoline is located in our Tulsa call center and is answered by a PSO representative between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours you may leave your name, phone number and a message. Calls are returned the next business day.

Dos

- Place vegetation a minimum of three feet (3') away from the equipment's sides and a minimum of ten feet (10') away from the front of the access door.
- Plant vegetation far enough away so it reaches no closer than the minimum distance when it is full-grown.

Don'ts

- Do not place vegetation or materials, such as rocks or timbers, within ten feet (10') of the access door.
- Do not build a structure over or around the electrical equipment, and do not build something that encloses it.
- Do not use vines or plants with spiny leaves near the electrical equipment.

The transformer is located inside this decorative wooden enclosure built by the homeowner. Attractive though it is, this is inadvisable for a couple of reasons. It's completely hidden from PSO crews who might need to locate the transformer to restore power, and the enclosure totally blocks airflow needed to cool the unit, which could lead to overheating and transformer failure.



Answer to "Find the Transformer!" (see inside panel)

Printed March 2006

Landscaping Tips for Ground-Level Electrical Facilities



When it comes to landscaping around ground-level electrical facilities (such as electrical transformers and pedestals), PSO believes that less is more from the practical standpoint of utility operations.

However, we recognize some customers prefer to use landscaping to better integrate the "look" of PSO's ground-level equipment with the overall appearance of their yards.

We have developed this pamphlet to provide homeowners with tips on how to achieve a pleasing landscape for the electrical transformer or pedestal in their yard that also is compatible with PSO's operational needs.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA

Recommended

Here are some examples of landscaping around transformers that allow reasonable access for PSO workers.



This is an ideal example of attractive landscaping around a pad-mount transformer that also permits easy access by PSO personnel.



The grass is overgrown but the transformer door can be readily accessed.



The low grass at the right is too close to the transformer door but it would still provide reasonable access. As the grass plant grows, however, it is likely to become a minor obstruction.

Vegetation Planting Ideas

Here are some types of vegetation suitable for planting as a visual screen for ground-level electrical equipment.

Sun

RedTip Photinia
Euonymus
Nandina
Boxwood
Yaupon Holly
Arborvitae
Otto Luyken Laurel
Fountain Grass
Chokeberry
Burning Bush

Shade

Japanese Yew
Azalea
Rose of Sharon
Crape Myrtle
Forsythia

Ask your local nursery for suggested small landscape shrubs.

Try to Find the Transformer!

Look close? There is an electrical transformer in this photo, which was taken in a backyard.

Can you find it?



(Answer printed upside down on back of pamphlet.)

Not Recommended

Here are some landscape examples that present obstructions to PSO personnel.



A tall lawn sprinkler is inches from the transformer door. Opening the door could result in damage to the pipe. The tall grass plant also would be in the way.



Not only is access to this transformer completely blocked by the fence and the plants, it's well hidden from view by PSO crews who might need to locate it in the middle of the night.



This homeowner arranged landscape rocks and planted a garden right in front of the transformer door. This landscaping would have to be removed before PSO could open the door.