

CHAPTER 3

Clearance Requirements

This chapter provides basic overhead and underground clearance requirements for both temporary and permanent services. Clearance requirements for meters, switchboards, and vaults are covered in Chapter 7, "Primary Service in Non-Network Areas;" Chapter 8, "Primary and Secondary Services in Network Areas;" and Chapter 11, "Metering."

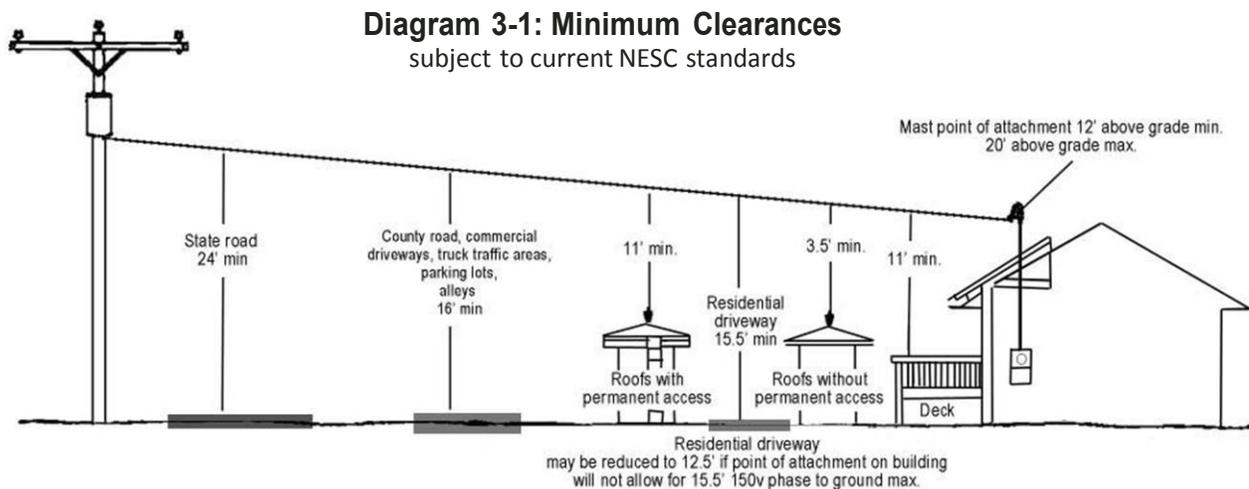
WARNING: The clearances indicated in this chapter may no longer be valid. Please contact Seattle City Light's (SCL's) Customer Engineering Representative (Residential and Commercial) or SCL's Electrical Service Engineers (Large Commercial and Industrial) for the most current information. Refer to the National Electric Code (NEC), National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and City of Seattle Electrical Codes for further information.

Overhead Clearance

CLEAR PATH The path between the service pole and the point of service attachment must be clear of all obstructions including trees, branches, buildings, and other obstacles.

CONSTRUCTION CLEARANCE The customer is required to maintain 10 feet minimum working clearance from SCL distribution lines to any person, building sections and construction equipment, according to current Safety Standards for Construction Work (www.lni.wa.gov/safety/rules/chapter/155/) and General Safety and Health Standards (app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-155-428)

The customer must contact SCL well in advance of starting construction so we can make temporary modifications to provide working clearances and determine the costs for the work. All estimated costs shall be paid in advance of SCL doing the work.



PERMANENT CLEARANCES The standards for clearances from the ground and from buildings are in accordance with the most recent edition of National Electrical Code and National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearances described in this section are based on the 2007 NESC. The next issue of the NESC will supersede these clearances.

ADDITIONAL POLES Seattle City Light will require a service pole and anchor on your property if a clear, direct route is not available or if the distance is greater than 150' from our pole to your point of attachment. Please see Chapter 6 for further information.

MAINTENANCE The customer is responsible for maintaining clearance around service wires on private property.

Service Drop Conductor Clearances

CLEARANCES OF SERVICE DROP CONDUCTORS ABOVE FINAL GRADE

- A minimum 12 feet for **service drop** over areas accessible only to pedestrians, and for residential driveways without truck traffic for voltages limited to 150 volts to ground.
- A minimum of 10 feet to the bottom of the **drip loop** for areas accessible to pedestrians only or residential driveways without truck traffic for voltages limited to 300 volts to ground.
- A minimum of 16 feet for service drops over non-residential driveways, parking areas, streets, roads and alleys.

CLEARANCE OF SERVICE DROP CONDUCTORS ABOVE ROOFS

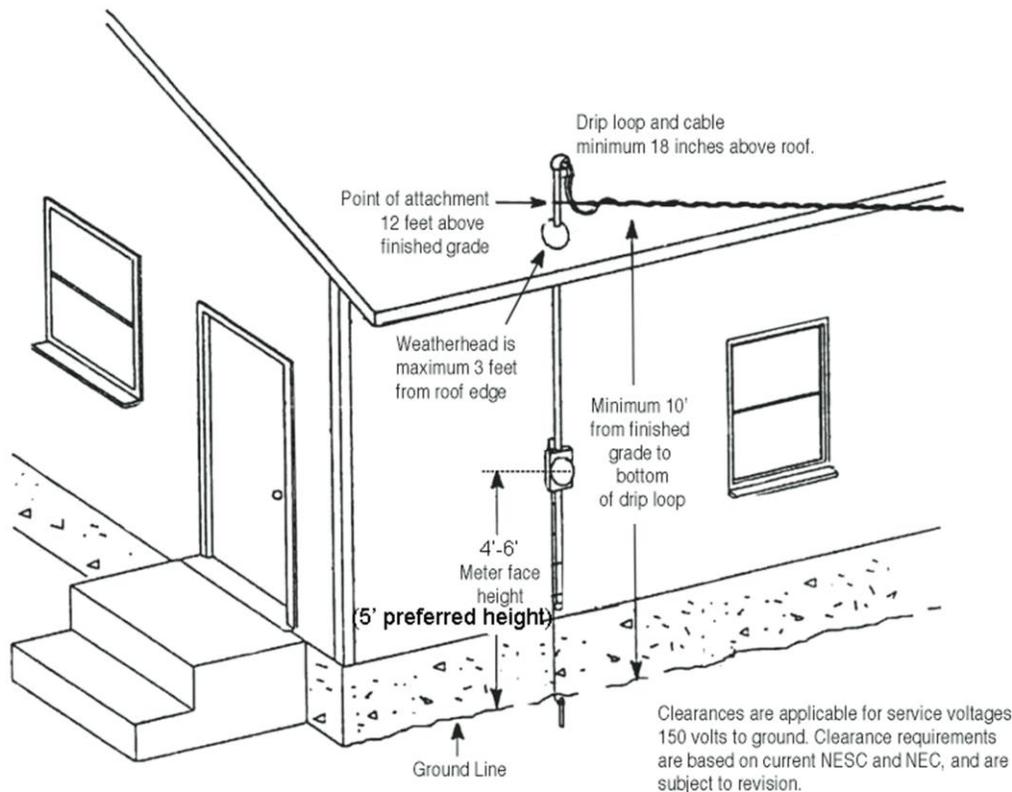
- A minimum of 3.5 feet above a sloped roof that is not accessible to pedestrians.
- A minimum of 18 inches above the roof overhang if not more than 4 feet of conductor passes over the roof.
- A minimum of 11 feet over the roof if it is accessible to pedestrians.

Clearances through trees for service drop conductors shall be a 3 foot radius around the wires.

WARNING:

The following clearances may no longer be valid. Please contact your Electrical Service Representative for the most current information.

**Diagram 3-2:
Residential Overhead Service**



IMPORTANT:

Call SCL before installing your service so we can approve the meter and service location.