How to easily install cable tray supports

Overview

A Guide to Installing and Supporting Electrical Cable TraysThis guide covers the critical steps, from selecting the right electrical cable tray and perform.

Key Takeaways

Installing cable tray supports involves careful planning, proper spacing, and secure mounting to ensure safe and reliable cable management.Step 1: Plan the Route and Layout

Before installing supports, determine the path of the cable tray. Consider clearance from other systems, load requirements, and future expansion. Use a chalk line or laser level to mark the tray route on walls, ceilings, or floors, and identify locations for bends, tees, or risers .

Step 2: Select the Right Tray and Support Type

Choose a cable tray type suitable for your application: ladder trays for large power cables, ventilated troughs for control or instrumentation cables, or solid-bottom trays for continuous support . Select support hardware such as wall arms, ceiling struts, or center-hung hangers based on the tray type and load .

Step 3: Determine Support Spacing

Support spacing depends on the tray type and cable load. Standard intervals are typically 1.5 to 3 meters (5–10 feet), with center-hung supports allowing up to 3.6 meters for heavy loads . Ensure each support can handle the maximum load per hanger, usually 318–340 kg (700–750 lbs) .

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Step 4: Install Supports
• Mark support points along the route according to spacing requirements.

• Drill holes for anchor bolts or threaded rods, using a hammer drill for concrete or appropriate fasteners for steel structures .

• Mount brackets or hangers securely, ensuring they are level and aligned. Use a spirit level to maintain straightness.

• For center-hung supports, attach threaded rods from the ceiling and secure the tray hangers, allowing cables to be deposited from both sides .
Step 5: Connect and Secure the Tray
• Use couplers or splice plates to join tray sections.

• Ensure trays are level and aligned before tightening all fasteners .

• Install grounding straps as required by electrical codes to maintain safety .
Step 6: Final Checks
• Verify that the tray is secure, level, and free of sagging.

• Confirm that the support spacing and load capacity meet manufacturer specifications and NEC requirements .

• Ensure the pathway is clear for cable installation and future maintenance. Following these steps ensures a safe, code-compliant, and durable cable tray system that supports cables efficiently and allows for easy maintenance and expansion.

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