Where can I find cheap ladder-type cable trays

Overview

Ladder Cable Trays | McMaster-CarrChoose from our selection of ladder cable trays, including cable and hose trays, heavy duty open cable and hose carriers.

Key Takeaways

Ladder-type cable trays are cost-effective, open-structured systems ideal for heavy-duty power cables, offering excellent ventilation and easy installation.Overview of Ladder-Type Cable Trays

Ladder cable trays consist of two longitudinal side rails connected by transverse rungs, forming a ladder-like structure. This design allows maximum airflow, which helps dissipate heat from power cables and prevents overheating, making them suitable for medium- and high-voltage installations . The open design also allows cables to enter or exit at any point along the tray, simplifying maintenance and future expansions .

Materials and Cost Considerations

Ladder trays are available in aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, and fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP). For inexpensive options, aluminum and low-carbon steel are typically the most cost-effective while still providing durability and corrosion resistance . Aluminum is lightweight and easy to handle, reducing labor costs during installation, whereas steel offers higher load capacity at a slightly higher price .

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Advantages of Ladder Trays

• Cost-effective for large installations: Generally lower cost than solid-bottom trays for heavy-duty applications .

• Excellent ventilation: Open rungs allow natural convection, reducing thermal derating of cables .

• Easy installation and maintenance: Straight sections, elbows, tees, and risers can be connected with minimal tools .

• Flexibility: Supports heavy cables, bundled cables, and even small pipes across long spans .

Applications

Ladder trays are widely used in:

• Industrial plants and power stations for long horizontal runs of large power cables .

• Utility buildings and infrastructure projects where high load capacity and heat dissipation are critical .

• Overhead installations where easy access for maintenance is required .

Tips for Cost Savings

• Choose aluminum or low-carbon steel for budget-friendly options .

• Optimize tray length and support spacing to reduce the number of supports and fittings .

• Use standard sizes (e.g., 3-meter or 6-meter sections) to minimize custom fabrication costs .

• Consider suppliers with bulk discounts such as Grainger, McMaster-Carr, or Eaton for industrial-scale purchases .

Accessories

To complete a ladder tray system, you may need:

• Elbows, tees, and risers for directional changes

• Covers for outdoor or harsh environments

• Hold-down clamps and connectors for secure installation By selecting aluminum or steel ladder trays and optimizing installation design, you can achieve a durable, ventilated, and cost-effective cable management system suitable for industrial and commercial applications.

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Aluminum Ladder Tray

C-Channel Swage Ladder trays are prefabricated metal structures that consist of two side rails connected by individual transverse

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Straight Cable Ladder Tray

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