

How to install metal mesh cable trays



Overview

This comprehensive installation guide provides detailed instructions for Legrand Cablofil wire mesh cable tray systems.

Key Takeaways

Installing metal mesh cable trays involves careful planning, proper support placement, and secure mounting to ensure safe and efficient cable management.

Step 1: Plan the Route

Before installation, determine the path your cable tray will follow. Consider clearance from walls, ceilings, and other utilities like HVAC ducts or pipes. Mark the route using a chalk line or laser level to ensure straight alignment. Identify locations for bends, tees, or elevation changes (risers) to accommodate the building layout and cable routing needs .

Step 2: Select Tools and Materials

You will need:

- **Tools:** Power drill, hammer drill (for concrete), wrench set, measuring tape, level, hacksaw or angle grinder (for cutting trays), and a file for deburring edges .
- **Materials:** Metal mesh cable trays, couplers or splice plates, mounting brackets (wall arms, ceiling struts, or center-hung supports), threaded rods, anchor bolts, and grounding straps .

Step 3: Install Supports



Supports are critical for load-bearing and stability. Standard spacing is typically 1.5 to 3 meters depending on tray type and load. Center-hung supports allow easier cable installation and can handle loads up to 318–340 kg per hanger . Secure supports to walls, ceilings, or floors using appropriate anchors or threaded rods, ensuring they are level and aligned with the planned route .

Step 4: Assemble and Mount Trays

- Connect tray sections using couplers or splice plates, ensuring a tight fit.
- For bends or tees, use pre-fabricated fittings or cut and shape trays as needed.
- Place trays on supports and secure with clamps or bolts. Ensure trays are level and straight to prevent sagging .
- Deburr any cut edges to prevent cable damage.

Step 5: Grounding and Cable Installation

- Attach grounding straps to the tray system to maintain electrical safety.
- Install cables according to fill ratios (usually max 50% of tray capacity) and maintain proper separation for power and data lines .
- Ensure cables are neatly laid and secured within the tray to prevent movement or strain.

Step 6: Inspection and Maintenance

- Verify that all trays are level, securely fastened, and free of obstructions.
- Periodically inspect for loose fittings, corrosion, or overfilled trays to maintain safety and performance . Following these steps ensures a safe, durable, and code-compliant metal mesh cable tray installation suitable for commercial or industrial applications.

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