

How to safely cut cable trays



AI Overview

Cutting cable trays safely and accurately requires proper measurement, the right tools, and careful finishing to maintain structural integrity and prevent injury.

Preparation

Measure and Mark: Use a measuring tape to determine the exact length or section to cut. Mark the cut line clearly with a permanent marker or chalk to ensure precision.

Select Tools: Choose tools based on the tray material:

- Steel or stainless steel:** Hacksaw, power saw with a metal-cutting blade, or battery-powered cable tray cutter.
- Aluminum:** Heavy-duty cable cutters or saws suitable for soft metals.
- Fiberglass:** Fine-toothed saws or specialized cutting tools to prevent splintering.

Secure the Tray: Clamp the tray firmly in a vise or with heavy-duty clamps to prevent movement during cutting.

Safety Gear: Wear safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, and a dust mask if cutting generates metal or fiberglass shavings.

Cutting Process

Position the Tool: Align the saw or cutter at a 90-degree angle to the tray for a straight cut.

Cut Slowly and Steadily: Apply consistent pressure and maintain a steady pace. For hacksaws, use long, even strokes; for power saws, guide the blade carefully along the marked line.

Use Lubrication (Optional): For stainless steel or thicker metal trays, apply cutting fluid to reduce heat and prolong blade life.

Check Progress: Periodically pause to ensure the cut is straight and the tray remains secure.

Finishing

Deburr Edges: Use a file or deburring tool to smooth sharp edges and prevent injury or cable damage.

Clean the Area: Remove metal shavings or debris to maintain a safe workspace.

Inspect the Cut: Ensure the cut is straight, fits the intended installation, and does not compromise the tray's structural integrity.

Additional Tips

Plan cuts in advance to minimize modifications during installation. For complex installations, consider modular cutting guidelines to optimize tray performance and ease of handling. Specialized battery-powered cutters can speed up the process for professional or repetitive tasks. By following these steps,...

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