All supports for cable trays

Overview

Examples of support elements include wall and support brackets, suspended supports and centre suspensions.

Key Takeaways

Cable trays are supported using brackets, hangers, clamps, and suspension systems that attach to ceilings, walls, floors, or structural beams to ensure stability and proper load distribution. Types of Cable Tray Supports1.

Wall-

Mounted Brackets: These are cantilever-style supports attached directly to walls, ideal for vertical or horizontal runs along walls. They provide a secure anchor point for cable trays and are commonly used in industrial and commercial installations. 2.

Ceiling Suspensions (Trapeze Hangers): Trapeze hangers consist of two rods or channels supporting the tray from the ceiling. They are suitable for long horizontal runs and allow for easy adjustment of tray height. 3.

Center Supports: Used for long spans or heavy cable loads, center supports provide additional stability at midpoints of the tray to prevent sagging. They are often combined with end supports for optimal load distribution. 4.

Hanging Clamps and Bars: These attach to threaded rods or strut channels and suspend the tray from above. They are adjustable and can accommodate wire mesh or solid-bottom trays, providing flexibility in routing. 5.

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Mounting Plates and Accessories: Plates and specialized mounting elements are used to attach junction boxes, devices, or other equipment to the cable tray system, ensuring secure integration with other electrical components.

Support Placement and Spacing

Supports should be placed at regular intervals according to the tray type, load, and manufacturer specifications. For example, straight sections of SnapTrack trays are typically supported every 20 feet, with additional supports near expansion joints or fittings. Fittings with bends or large radii require supports within 2 feet of each extremity to maintain structural integrity.

Proper spacing ensures that the tray can safely carry the anticipated cable weight without sagging or overstressing the support elements.

Material Considerations

Supports are generally made from steel, stainless steel, or corrosion-resistant materials such as galvanized steel or fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) for environments with high moisture or chemical exposure. The choice of material depends on environmental conditions, load requirements, and safety standards.

Summary

Cable tray supports are essential for maintaining the structural integrity and safety of electrical installations. Common support types include wall brackets, ceiling trapeze hangers, center supports, hanging clamps, and mounting plates. Proper placement, spacing, and material selection are critical to ensure compliance with standards, prevent sagging, and accommodate the weight and type of cables being routed.

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In designing supports for a cable tray system, consideration should be given to the loads associated with future cable additions and any additional loading that may be applied to the cable tray system (e.g.,

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