Where should cable trays be covered



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

Cable trays can be either open or covered, with covers used to protect cables from physical damage, environmental exposure, or interference.

Purpose of Cable Tray Covers

Cable tray covers, also called lidding, are sections that enclose the top of a cable tray to provide protection for the cables inside. They are not always required by code, but they are highly recommended in certain situations, such as high-traffic areas, outdoor installations, or where cables need shielding from sunlight, dust, or mechanical impact. Covers help maintain cable integrity, prevent accidental contact, and reduce electromagnetic interference in sensitive installations.

Types of Cable Tray Covers

Cable tray covers come in various designs and materials to suit different applications: Flat Tray Covers: Simple, flat covers that sit on top of the tray, suitable for general protection.

Dome or Hat-

Shaped Covers: Ideal for cables that extend above the tray edges, providing extra clearance and protection. Corrugated Tray Covers: Designed for added strength and rigidity, often used in industrial environments. Flanged Covers: Provide a secure fit and are often used where environmental sealing is important.

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Materials commonly used include metal, composite, rubber, and plastic, with metal and composite being the most popular due to durability and fire resistance. Covers can be selected based on indoor or outdoor use, exposure to sunlight, or the need for electromagnetic shielding.

Installation Considerations

While the National Electrical Code (NEC) Article 392 does not mandate covers for all cable trays, it specifies that cables in trays must be suitable for open-air exposure, such as Type TC (Tray Cable) or metal-armored (Type MC) cables. Covers are particularly recommended when trays are installed in areas where tools or objects could fall on the cables, or where environmental conditions could degrade the cable insulation. Properly installed covers also facilitate maintenance by keeping cables organized and protected.

Summary

Cable trays can be open or covered depending on the installation environment and safety requirements. Covers enhance protection against physical damage, environmental factors, and interference, and are available in multiple designs and materials to meet specific needs. While not always required by code, using covers is a best practice in high-risk or outdoor installations.

Article Content

A Guide to Installing and Supporting Electrical Cable Trays

This guide covers the critical steps, from selecting the right electrical cable tray and performing accurate cable fill calculations to managing a safe cable pull through

Cable Tray Installation Rules (NEC 392) – Electrical Trader

Despite their versatility, cable trays are not suitable for every situation. They are strictly prohibited in hoistways or any location where they could face severe physical damage. Cable trays

NEC Article 392 Guide: Ensuring Compliance for Cable

Master NEC Article 392 with our comprehensive guide. Learn essential cable tray requirements for installation, grounding, and fill capacity to

Cable Tray Technical Guide A practical guide to product selection and ...

Conductors used in cable tray must be specified in Table 19 of the CEC and, except where permitted under paragraphs [12-2202(2)] and [(3)], covered by a continuous metal sheath or an interlocking

Cable Tray Cover Types: Designs, Materials & Selection

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A complete guide to cable tray cover types: Compare 9+ designs, material specifications (NEMA/IEC), selection factors & maintenance best practices.

11 Types of Cable Tray Covers and How to Choose It New

Cable tray is a structure for supporting and organizing cables. Usually, it has another section that encloses the cables within the tray called a “cover” or “lidding” section.

Cable Tray Installation

Once the cable is installed in an open cable tray installation, take care to protect the exposed cables from falling objects or debris that could cause damage to the cable. In areas where the cable tray

NEC Article 392 Requirements for Cable Tray Systems

NEC Article 392 covers the requirements for cable tray systems, including the types of trays recognized, which wiring methods can be installed in them, where they can and cannot be

NEC Standards for Cable Trays: Grounding, Fill Capacity

This article provides a comprehensive framework that governs various aspects of cable tray installations, including the types of cables that are deemed acceptable for use, requirements for

Smart Cable Tray Covers: A Buyer''s Guide to Material, Fit & ROI

Explore cable tray cover types, materials & standards to optimize safety and system ROI. Read more in our expert guide.

Selecting Outdoor Cable Tray: A Project Engineer''s Guide

Avoid costly mistakes. Our engineer''s guide helps you choose the right outdoor cable tray based on environment, load, and corrosion resistance.

IEC Standard for Cable Tray: Complete Technical Guide

IEC Standard for Cable Tray: Complete Technical Guide The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) provides detailed guidelines for

Cable Tray Thickness Guide: Which Thickness Should You Choose?

Learn how to choose the right cable tray thickness for industrial, commercial, and infrastructure projects. Explore GI cable tray thickness standards, load capacities, and selection

Safely Installing, Maintaining and Inspecting Cable Trays

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Cable trays are not raceways, but they are treated as a structural component of a facility''s electrical system. Cable trays are a part of a planned cable management system to support, route, protect and

Cable Tray Technical Guide A practical guide to product selection and ...

SOLID-BOTTOM CABLE TRAY Providing additional cable protection, solid-bottom cable tray is sometimes preferred to support and protect numerous small instrumentation and control cables.

Cable Tray and Cable Trunking for Cold Storage Facilities and ...

Cold storage cable tray procurement should focus on durability, clean routing, corrosion awareness, and installation details. A complete package can help contractors avoid site delays

Precautions for Cable Tray Installation

When the cable tray is installed outdoors, the cable tray should be equipped with a protective cover at its upper layer or each layer. When the cable tray is installed

A Guide to Installing and Supporting Electrical Cable Trays

A professional guide to installing electrical cable tray systems per NEC Article 392. Covers support, securing cables, and fill calculations.

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This video was associated with the source search result. Verify technical details against current product documentation and project requirements.

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