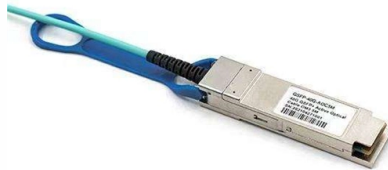


How to secure the top of the cable tray



AI Overview

The top of a cable tray can be secured using mechanical fasteners such as clamps, splice plates, or bolted connections, combined with properly spaced supports to ensure stability and safety.

Mechanical Fastening Methods

To secure the top of a cable tray, the most common methods include:

- Clamps and Bolts:** Use clamps or bolts to attach the tray to its supports or to join sections. These fasteners provide a strong, reliable hold and can be undone for maintenance or adjustments.
- Splice Plates:** Flat metal plates with pre-drilled holes are bolted across the ends of two tray sections. This method ensures a straight, secure connection and distributes load evenly.
- Quick Connect Systems:** Some manufacturers offer snap, slide, or twist systems that require minimal tools and allow fast installation, though they may be brand-specific.
- Fish Plates or Junction Plates:** Used for angled or T-shaped connections, these plates help secure the tray at junctions or bends.

Support and Spacing Considerations

Proper support is critical to prevent sagging and maintain the integrity of the tray:

- Support Spacing:** Follow manufacturer guidelines and standards such as NEMA VE-1 or IEC 61537. Supports are typically placed at regular intervals along the tray, with additional supports at bends or junctions.
- Hanger Supports:** Ceiling-mounted trapeze hangers or wall-mounted brackets can secure the tray from above, keeping it stable and aligned.
- Cantilever or Floor-Mounted Supports:** For vertical runs or areas without ceiling access, these supports provide stability while keeping the tray accessible.

Safety and Compliance

Ensure all connections are tight and capable of withstanding the weight of cables, including any short-circuit forces. Maintain electrical continuity and grounding if the tray serves as an equipment grounding conductor, following NEC Article 392. Avoid overfilling the tray to prevent excessive load and potential sagging. Use protective gloves and eye protection when handling metal trays and fasteners to prevent injury from sharp edges.

Best Practices

Place couplers at approximately 1/5t...

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The terms cable tray, cable ladder, and cable trunking are often used interchangeably, though they differ slightly in design. According to DIN EN 61537

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Mounting instructions

The fittings are fastened to the cable tray rail either without tools with double clamps (from tray height 60 mm) or with truss-head bolts and combination nuts.

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Vertical cable tray elbows at the top of runs should be supported at each end. At the bottom of runs, they should be supported at the top of the elbow and within 610 mm (24") of the lower extremity of the

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