

From 150 to 100 cable trays



Overview

Steel Cable Tray Steel cable trays offer a practical and durable solution for cable management in industrial and commercial applications.

Key Takeaways

100mm and 150mm cable trays differ in width, load capacity, and airflow, and selecting the right size depends on cable volume, type, and installation environment. Key Differences Between 150mm and 100mm Cable Trays Width and Capacity: A 150mm tray provides more space for medium-density cable runs, allowing better airflow and easier cable management, while a 100mm tray is suitable for lighter loads or smaller cable bundles. Reducing from 150mm to 100mm decreases the cross-sectional area, which may limit the number of cables that can be installed without exceeding NEC fill limits.

Tray Types and Applications: Ladder trays: Both 100mm and 150mm widths are available, but 150mm is preferred for heavy power cables due to higher load capacity and better heat dissipation. Perforated trays: 100mm trays are suitable for smaller installations, while 150mm trays support heavier loads and provide improved ventilation. Solid-bottom trays: Both widths can be used, but 150mm offers more room for delicate or high-density cables, especially in outdoor or harsh environments.

Wire mesh trays: 100mm trays are common for data and telecom cables, whereas 150mm trays allow for larger bundles or future expansion. Material Considerations: Steel, stainless steel, and aluminum are available for both widths. Stainless steel is ideal for corrosive or outdoor environments, while aluminum is lightweight and corrosion-resistant, suitable for sensitive installations.

Galvanized or powder-coated steel can be used for indoor or moderate outdoor conditions, with 150mm trays offering slightly higher structural strength for heavier loads. Installation and Accessories: Fittings, covers, and splice plates are generally compatible across standard widths, but reducing width may require smaller covers or different support spacing. When downsizing, ensure that cable fill calculations are updated to maintain compliance with NEC or IEC standards.

Practical Considerations: Downsizing from 150mm to 100mm is feasible if the cable load is reduced or if fewer cables are routed in that section. For future expansion, 150mm trays provide more flexibility, while 100mm trays may require additional runs or upgrades later. Airflow and heat dissipation are better in wider trays, so high-current power cables may overheat in a 100mm tray if not properly ventilated.

Recommendation

When transitioning from 150mm to 100mm cable trays: Assess cable quantity and type to ensure the 100mm tray can accommodate the load. Select the appropriate tray type (ladder, perforated, solid, or wire mesh) based on environmental and load requirements. Check material and finish for corrosion resistance and mechanical strength.

Update accessories and support spacing to match the new width. Verify compliance with NEC, IEC, or local electrical codes to avoid overcrowding and heat issues. By carefully evaluating these factors, you can safely transition to 100mm trays without compromising cable management, safety, or future expandability.

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Cable Tray Technical Guide A practical guide to product selection and installation This guide for engineers and installers has been developed by ABB as a practical reference regarding cable tray

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