

Cables can be drilled through the bottom of the cable tray

Article Overview

Cables can enter or exit through the bottom of a cable tray, especially in ladder-type trays, provided proper precautions are taken to protect the cables and maintain code compliance.

Ladder Cable Trays

For ladder-type cable trays, it is common and acceptable for cables to exit or enter through the bottom of the tray. This configuration is often used when routing cables into equipment such as motor control centers (MCCs) or switchgear enclosures . Ladder trays without covers allow maximum airflow, which helps dissipate heat from current-carrying conductors, and moisture cannot accumulate as it might in conduit systems . When cables exit the bottom, it is important to respect the manufacturer's recommended minimum bending radii to prevent damage to the cable insulation .

Solid-Bottom and Ventilated Trough Trays

For solid-bottom trays, cables are typically routed on top, but drilling drain holes in the bottom is permissible to prevent moisture accumulation if the tray is not being used for EMI/RFI shielding . Ventilated trough trays also allow bottom entry, but care must be taken to avoid excessive drooping of small-diameter cables between rungs or supports .

Protection and Accessories...



Article Content

Jun 19, 2026

B-Line series Cable Tray Design Considerations

Cables may exit or enter through the top or the bottom of the tray. Ladder cable tray without covers provides for maximum air flow,

Jun 26, 2026

A Guide to Installing and Supporting Electrical Cable Trays

A professional guide to installing electrical cable tray systems per NEC Article 392. Covers support,

Nov 25, 2025

Best Practice Guide to Cable Ladder and Cable Tray Systems

Cable ladder systems and cable tray systems are designed for use as supports for cables and not as enclosures giving full

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Mastering Cable Tray Installation | Step-by-Step Guide for a Seamless ...

Learn how to install cable trays correctly. Get the ultimate step-by-step guide on setting up a seamless and reliable

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NEC Article 392: Cable Tray Systems

It provides rules for acceptable wiring methods that can be installed in cable trays, including conditions for use. It

Mar 31, 2026

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

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Type of Tray Cable and Benefit of Cable Trays

There are several types of cable trays, including but not limited to ladder trays, solid bottom cable trays, trough,

Jan 30, 2026

Explaining NEC Article 392 on Cable Trays

Cables and conductors must be secured to the cable tray at intervals according to installation instructions. For non

Oct 03, 2025

Cable Tray Ladder Trunking Wire Basket Installation Guidelines

It should be mounted far enough off the floor or roof to allow the cables to exit through the bottom of the cable tray. If a strut is used

Sep 11, 2025

CABLE TRAY SYSTEMS GUIDE

The total load supported by the cable tray, uniformly distributed. This will be the combined weight of all of the cables or tray contents,

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POWER CABLE INSTALLATION GUIDE

POWER CABLE INSTALLATION GUIDE ... POWER CABLE INSTALLATION GUIDE Cables installed into conduits or trays have

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FAQ | Cable Tray Institute

For instance, trapeze supports may be desired in an application where cables will be pulled through the cable tray. Center hung

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Cable Tray Manual: NEC Article 392 Guide

Small diameter cables may exit the ventilated trough cable tray through the bottom ventilation holes as well as out the top of the

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B-Line series Cable Tray Design Considerations

As an industry leader in cable tray, Eaton offers one of the widest ranges of cable management solutions available in the market

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Cable Tray Ladder Trunking Wire Basket Installation Guidelines

Cable trays are available in different configurations, straight sections are available to route cables in a horizontal or vertical plane.

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Types of Cable Typically Used in Cable Tray

Types of Cable Typically Used in Cable Tray The purpose of a cable tray system is to support, route, and protect cable as part of the

Dec 20, 2025

Installation Of Cable In Cable Trays: NEC, Safety

Installation of Cable in Cable Trays ensures proper routing, cable management, NEC compliance, grounding, fire

Aug 04, 2025

Installation of Cable Tray, Trunking And Accessories

2. Purpose This method statement for the Installation of Cable Tray, Trunking, and Accessories shows and explains

Oct 10, 2025

Drilling for Cable

However, if you're drilling for an appliance that has a dedicated circuit—and thus only one outlet—it's

Aug 09, 2025

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

In industrial facilities where maintenance and supervision conditions ensure that only qualified persons service the installation, cable

Feb 20, 2026

Tray Installations

Tray Installations The placement of cables, ducts, and conduits can be done using cable trays – for both outside plant (OSP) and

Jul 29, 2025

Cable Tray / Trough Tray INSTALLATION

) Feed provided 3/8"x3/4" hex head bolt thru tray and u-splice and attach 3/8" serrated nuts on outside of u-splice.) Recommended

Oct 02, 2025

Cable tray systems support cables' journey through the data center

Basket-style cable trays offer the necessary vertical component, provide enhanced support for the cables, can be used

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Cable Tray Type Selection

Cables may exit or enter the ladder cable trays through the top or the bottom of the cable tray. Where the cables enter or exit

Apr 10, 2026

Cable Tray Installations Can Be Tricky: Definitions make the difference

Many electrical professionals believe that cable trays are raceways. Based on the definition, this couldn't be further

Nov 20, 2025

Complete cable tray manual for electrical engineers and designers

The fact that a cable can easily enter and exit cable tray anywhere along its route, allows for some unique

Sep 26, 2025

Explaining NEC Article 392 on Cable Trays

NEC Article 392 explains cable trays, their components, appropriate wiring methods for

May 22, 2026

Cable entry into cabinet/panel -top or bottom?

Plus if you prefer bottom entry, your cables can easily be routed to a cable tray or panduit wire tray for breakout to

Jul 26, 2025

Cable Tray Fill Rules (NEC 392)

This guide covers the cable tray types and their appropriate applications, the fill rules for each configuration, ampacity

Contact Us

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