

Cable trays are considered concealed works



Article Overview

Cables can be considered concealed works when installed within walls, ceilings, or floors, but cable trays are generally not classified as concealed because they are open support structures, even if positioned above ceilings or behind partitions.

Concealed Cables

Concealed cables are those installed in such a way that they are hidden from view, typically within walls, floors, or ceilings. According to BS 7671, concealed wiring must be installed to minimize mechanical damage from impact, abrasion, penetration, tension, or compression during installation, use, or maintenance. For example, PVC-insulated cables in domestic installations must be positioned at least 50 mm from surfaces to avoid accidental penetration by nails or screws. Concealed cables may also require adherence to prescribed “safe zones” within walls or partitions to ensure protection.

Cable Trays

Cable trays, on the other hand, are open or partially open support structures designed to route and support electrical cables. They are typically installed above ceilings, along walls, or in industrial spaces to provide organized pathways for power and data cables. While cable trays may be positioned out of direct sight, they are not fully enclosed within the building structure and remain accessible for inspection, maintenance, and future cable additions. Their open design allows for ventilation a...

Article Content

Jan 26, 2026

Cable Tray Questions | Cable Tray Institute

Question 8: Are there any requirements for separation and segregation of various types of cables (i.e. Power, instrumentation, signal,

Apr 08, 2026

29 CFR 1910.399 -

A factory assembly of two or more insulated conductors, with or without associated bare or covered grounding conductors under a

Apr 13, 2026

FactSheet

If visual observation reveals a cable tray that is completely full and/or over-flowing with cables, chances are that the cable tray is in

Oct 12, 2025

What Are Cable Trays and How Do They Work?

A cable tray is an organized support structure designed to secure and route these insulated electrical cables. It acts as a dedicated

Feb 24, 2026

Concealed Wiring: Meaning, Importance, Installation Procedure, Tips

Concealed wiring is the practice of hiding electrical wires behind walls, floors and ceilings, ensuring a neat and

Jul 24, 2026

Types of Cable Containment Systems: Trays, Trunks, Conduits

Discover the main types of cable containment systems—trays, trunking, and conduits—and learn how to choose the

Sep 24, 2025

Requirements for working clearances and spaces around electrical ...

Question: What would OSHA consider to be a safe distance for setting extra stock or empty containers from any

May 18, 2026

What is a cable tray?

A cable tray is a support system that creates a rigid structure for wires and cables to travel along. An alternative to

Oct 29, 2025

Safely Installing, Maintaining and Inspecting Cable Trays

A generic guideline developed by the Cable Tray Institute indicates that cable trays should not be filled in excess of 40-50% of the

Aug 28, 2025

Exploring Cable Tray Types and Applications

Often unheralded, cable trays play a vital role in tray cable installations throughout industrial, commercial, and residential projects.

Jan 22, 2026

Cable Trunk vs Cable Tray: What are Differences Between Them?

Discover the key differences between cable trunking and cable trays for electrical installations. Learn about their

Jan 31, 2026

Cable tray

A solid-bottom tray provides the maximum protection to cables, but requires cutting the tray or using fittings to enter or exit cables. A

May 04, 2026

NEC Questions and Answers based on 2017 NEC ®

Note: The answers to these questions are based on the 2017 NEC. Q1. How does the NEC define a Cable Tray System? A1. A cable

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Unlocking the code

Therefore, per the NEC, the cables are considered to be accessible. Cabling in concealed spaces has additional

Sep 19, 2025

Are cables running through cable trays considered concealed

Answer: Yes; cables are tied down in cable trays to keep the cables in the cable tray, to maintain spacing between cables, or Cable

Nov 05, 2025

Stumped by the Code? NEC Rule Regarding Cable Tray Systems

All questions and answers are based on the 2017 NEC. Q. What is the NEC rule regarding the continuity of cable tray

Nov 02, 2025

Guarding energized electrical parts within cable trays (H.D. Roberts Jr ...

Your question, and our reply, follow. Scenario: Many power generating plants have extensive systems of cable trays.

Dec 08, 2025

What Are Cable Trays and How Do They Work?

Essential Roles in Infrastructure Cable trays are deployed in large-scale settings where a high volume of cables must be managed

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How to Install Concealed Conduit Electrical Wiring

Learn how to install concealed conduit electrical wiring systems with safety and functionality in mind.

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

Cable Tray Technical Guide A practical guide to product selection and installation This guide for engineers and installers has been

Dec 05, 2025

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

Cable tray is considered to be a system. It must provide continuous support for cables, and the electrical continuity of the cable tray

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Exposed and Accessible | UpCodes

Cable trays must remain visible and easily reachable, unless specific exceptions outlined in section 392.18 (D) apply. This ensures

Jan 07, 2026

7 Types of Cable Trays: How to Choose the Right One

Cable tray systems are engineered support structures designed to route, support, and protect insulated electrical

Apr 16, 2026

NEC Article 392 Guide: Ensuring Compliance for Cable Tray Systems

The primary rulebook used in the safe use of cable trays is NEC Article 392. This is a description of how to select,

Mar 09, 2026

NEC: Cable Tray Tips | EC& M

Cable trays solve many design and installation problems, save money, and produce a neat, durable installation. For

Nov 01, 2025

10 Things to Consider when Selecting a Cable Tray | Snake Tray

We want to see your next construction project succeed whether you choose Snake Tray as your partner for cable

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100+ Essential Questions Answered About Cable Trays: Design ...

Discover over 100 expert answers about cable trays, covering key topics like material selection, load capacity,

Feb 15, 2026

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

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