

How to bend the corner of cable tray cover plate

Article Overview

You can bend a cable tray cover plate by making precise cuts and using hand tools or bending machines to achieve a smooth 90-degree corner while maintaining structural integrity.

Tools and Materials Needed

- Cable tray cover plate (steel or aluminum)
- Measuring tape and marker
- Metal cutting tool (hacksaw, bolt cutter, or tin snips for mesh trays)
- Bending tool (metal bar, vice, or cable tray bending machine)
- Protective gloves and eye protection

Step-by-Step Method

- **Measure and Mark** Determine the exact location of the bend. For a 90-degree corner, mark the bend line clearly on the cover plate. Ensure the bend radius is sufficient to avoid damaging cables inside the tray .
- **Make Strategic Cuts** (if required) For steel or mesh trays, making two small cuts along the bend line can help the metal fold smoothly without cracking. Wire mesh trays can be cut with a bolt cutter, which also preserves the protective zinc layer .
- **Bend the Cover Plate**
 - **Using a Metal Bar or Vice:** Place the cover plate over a sturdy edge or in a vice. Apply gradual pressure along the bend line using a metal bar to lift and bend the plate evenly .
 - **Using a Bending Machine:** If available, a cable tray bending machine ensures a precise 90-degree bend with minimal effort .
- **Smooth the Bend** After bending, check for sharp edges or uneven surfaces. Use a file or deburring tool to smooth the edges to prevent cable damage .
- **Install and Verify** Place the bent cover plate on the tray and ensure it fits snugly around the corner. Verify that the bend does not interfere with cable placement and that grounding or bonding is maintained .

Tips for Best Results

- Always bend slowly to avoid cracking or deforming the metal.
- Maintain a proper bend radius to protect Ethernet, fiber, or power cables....

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