

WIRING INFORMATION - 155

Maximum Ampacities for Wire

Table to the right shows allowable ampacities of conductors (wires) in conduit, raceway, cable or directly buried, based on ambient temperature of 30°C (86°F). NEC allows rounding up cable ampacity to next size standard fuse or breaker.

* The national electrical code (NEC) specifies that the over-current protection device not exceed 30A for 10 AWG wire, 20A for 12 AWG wire and 15A for 14 AWG wire.

For ambient temperatures above 30°C (86°F), multiply the allowable ampacities shown at right by the correction factor listed under the insulation temperature rating below.

Temperature Range		75°F insulation	90°F insulation
31-35°C	87-95F	0.94	0.96
36-40°C	96-104F	0.88	0.91
41-45°C	105-113F	0.82	0.87
46-50°C	114-122F	0.75	0.82
51-55°C	123-131F	0.67	0.76
56-60°C	132-140F	0.58	0.71

Wire Size	Copper Conductor Temp. Rating		Aluminum Cond. Temp. Rating	
	75°C (167°F)	90°C (194°F)	75°C (167°F)	90°C (194°F)
*14	20	25		
*12	25	30	20	25
*10	35	40	30	35
8	50	55	40	45
6	65	75	50	60
4	85	95	65	75
2	115	130	90	100
1	130	150	100	115
1/0	150	170	120	135
2/0	175	195	135	150
3/0	200	225	155	175
4/0	230	260	180	205

Recommended Inverter Cable and Overcurrent Protection

Use this table to decide cable size and fuse or breaker size for common inverter models. Smaller cable sizes can be used if fuse or breaker size is reduced but this can cause problems if the inverter is run near its maximum output wattage. Larger cables may be necessary if the distance from the inverter to the battery is greater than 10 feet.

We stock battery to inverter cables in #2, 2/0 and 4/0 AWG.

Inverter Voltage	Continuous Watts	Maximum Inverter Input Amps	Fuse Size (Amps)	Circuit Breaker (Amps)	Wire Size AWG
12 Volt	600	80	80	80	2
	800	107	110	110	2
	1000	134	200	175	2/0
	1500	200	300	250	4/0
	2400	320	400	250	4/0
	2500	334	400	250	4/0
	2800	382	400	250	4/0
	3000	400	400	250	4/0
24 Volt	600	40	50	50	8
	800	54	75	75	4
	1000	67	80	100	2
	1500	100	110	110	2/0
	2400	160	200	175	2/0
	2500	167	200	175	2/0
	3000	200	300	250	4/0
	3500	230	300	250	4/0
48 Volt	3000	76	110	110	2/0
	3600	90	110	110	2/0
	4000	148	200	175	2/0
	5500	185	400	250	4/0

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WIRE LOSS TABLES - 12 and 24 Volt

Use these tables to determine the maximum distance one-way in feet of various gauge 2-conductor copper wire from power source to load for 2% voltage drop in 12 volt and 24 volt system wiring. You can go twice the distance where a 4% loss is acceptable. Do not exceed the 2% drop for wire between PV modules and batteries. A 4% to 5% loss is acceptable between batteries and lighting circuits in most cases.

12 Volt System - 2% Voltage Drop

AMPS	#14	#12	#10	#8	#6	#4	#2	1/0	2/0	4/0
1	45	70	115	180	290	456	720			
2	22.5	35	57.5	90	145	228	360	580	720	1060
4	10	17.5	27.5	45	72.5	114	180	290	360	580
6	7.5	12	17.5	30	47.5	75	120	193	243	380
8	5.5	8.5	15	22.5	35.5	57	90	145	180	290
10	4.5	7	12	18	28.5	45.5	72.5	115	145	230
15	3	4.5	7	12	19	30	48	76.5	96	150
20	2	3.5	5.5	9	14.5	22.5	36	57.5	72.5	116
25	1.8	2.8	4.5	7	11.5	18	29	46	58	92
30	1.5	2.4	3.5	6	9.5	15	24	38.5	48.5	77
40			2.8	4.5	7	11.5	18	29	36	56
50			2.3	3.6	5.5	9	14.5	23	29	46
100					2.9	4.6	7.2	11.5	14.5	23
150							4.8	7.7	9.7	15
200							3.6	5.8	7.3	11

24 Volt System - 2% Voltage Drop

AMPS	#14	#12	#10	#8	#6	#4	#2	1/0	2/0	4/0
1	90	140	230	360	580	912	1440			
2	45	70	115	180	290	456	720	1160	1440	2120
4	20	35	55	90	145	228	360	580	720	1160
6	15	24	35	60	95	150	240	386	486	760
8	11	17	30	45	71	114	180	290	360	580
10	9	14	24	36	57	91	145	230	290	460
15	6	9	14	24	38	60	96	153	192	300
20	4	7	11	18	29	45	72	115	145	232
25	3.6	5.6	9	14	23	36	58	92	116	184
30	3	4.8	7	12	19	30	48	77	97	154
40			5.6	9	14	23	36	58	72	112
50			4.6	7.2	11	18	29	46	58	92
100					5.8	9.2	14.4	23	29	46
150							9.6	15.4	19.4	30
200							7.2	11.6	14.6	22

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WIRE LOSS TABLES - 48 and 120 Volt

Use these tables to determine the maximum distance one-way in feet of various gauge two conductor copper wire from power source to load for 2% voltage drop in 48 volt and 120 volt system wiring. You can go twice the distance where a 4% loss is acceptable. Do not exceed the 2% drop for wire between PV modules and batteries. A 4 to 5% loss is acceptable between batteries and lighting circuits in most cases.

48 Volt System - 2% Voltage Drop

AMPS	#14	#12	#10	#8	#6	#4	#2	1/0	2/0	4/0
1	180	280	460	720	1160	1824	2880			
2	90	140	230	360	580	912	1440	2320	2880	4240
4	40	70	110	180	290	456	720	1160	1440	2320
6	30	48	70	120	190	300	480	772	972	1520
8	22	34	60	90	142	228	360	580	720	1160
10	18	28	48	72	114	182	290	460	580	920
15	12	18	28	48	76	120	192	306	384	600
20	8	14	22	36	58	90	144	230	290	464
25	7.2	11.2	18	28	46	72	116	184	232	368
30	6	9.6	14	24	38	60	96	154	194	308
40			11.2	18	28	46	72	116	144	224
50			9.2	14.4	22	36	58	92	116	184
100					11.6	18.4	28.8	46	58	92
150							19.2	30.8	38.8	60
200							14.4	23.2	29.2	44

120 Volt System - 2% Voltage Drop

AMPS	#14	#12	#10	#8	#6	#4	#2	1/0	2/0	4/0
1	450	700	1150	1800	2900	4560	7200	0	0	0
2	225	350	575	900	1450	2280	3600	5800	7200	10600
4	100	175	275	450	725	1140	1800	2900	3600	5800
6	75	120	175	300	475	750	1200	1930	2430	3800
8	55	85	150	225	355	570	900	1450	1800	2900
10	45	70	120	180	285	455	725	1150	1450	2300
15	30	45	70	120	190	300	480	765	960	1500
20	20	35	55	90	145	225	360	575	725	1160
25	18	28	45	70	115	180	290	460	580	920
30	15	24	35	60	95	150	240	385	485	770
40			28	45	70	115	180	290	360	560
50			23	36	55	90	145	230	290	460
100				18	29	46	72	115	145	230
150							48	77	97	150
200							36	58	73	110