

How to Select the Right Busway

Your facility needs reliable power distribution and a cool environment to keep everything running smoothly. But sometimes the very cables that power your equipment cause overheating and make it difficult for your cooling systems to work. Traditional underfloor cabling leaves little room for airflow, making it nearly impossible to combat the heat coming from every device in your facility.



Instead of running your cooling solutions to their limits and increasing your electric bill, create a better cabling layout to improve airflow. How do you accomplish this? Follow these steps to find the perfect busway solution that will organize your cables, promote better airflow, and keep your facility cool no matter how much equipment you have.

Determine Power Capacity Requirements

To properly distribute power, a busway needs to be able to handle your present and future power current rating. Your facility's total current rating is found by looking at every piece of equipment's label or manual for their listed power rating or load. Similarly, check the breaker for the area where the busway will be installed to determine how much power can be delivered. This information will reveal your current and maximum power load. Once the power load has been identified, multiply it by 1.25 to provide room for redundancy and growth. Then, pick a [busway system](#) with the same amperage.

Verify How Much Available Space You Have

Busways are designed to be installed on your ceiling, so you need to make sure you have enough space for them. Standard busway lengths are 13 feet maximum, but longer lengths are available with custom options. Busways also require at least three feet of clearance on all sides, so they don't interfere with other equipment and have room for maintenance. This is especially important since busways are typically installed over server racks to provide efficient energy distribution. Measure the dimensions of your ceiling and ensure there are no obstacles before purchasing a busway. This way you can plan the layout of your busway and know it will fit before installation.

Assess Scalability Needs

Busways are designed to be easier to install and remove than traditional cables and conduits. However, their ability to scale depends on the model. If your facility has high power needs and doesn't experience or anticipate a lot of change, a more rigid busway system may be acceptable. These systems can typically be installed horizontally or vertically but are more difficult to add new equipment to. On the other hand, if you run a high change environment, busways with the standard modular tap-off design will allow for quick reconfiguration. In fact, some of these busways come with a live plug and play system that's easy to use so anyone can install tap-off boxes and connect them to rack PDUs.

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Identify Your Monitoring and Control Needs

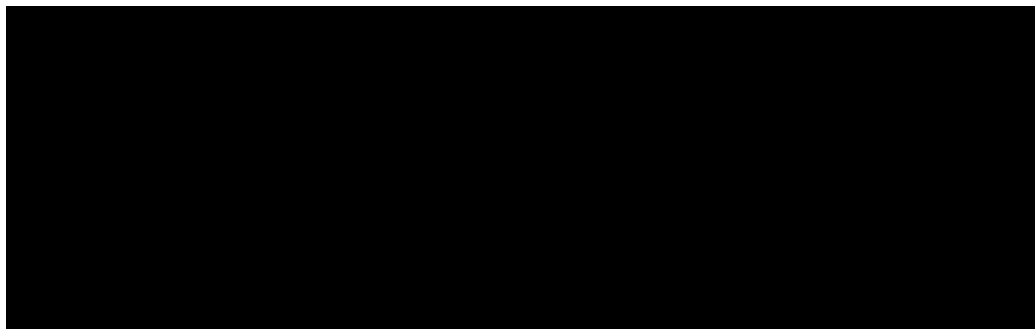
Pairing busways with [monitoring solutions](#) can help optimize the way your facility runs. The kind of monitoring system you choose depends largely on your own needs. Busways can be installed with monitoring and management solutions to provide real-time data on your equipment's power and temperature. This can help alert you to power and/or cooling issues in your facility early on before your operations are disrupted.

How to Choose a Busway That Will Meet Your Needs

Finding the right busway for your facility starts with you understanding your location's needs. First, look for a system that can meet your power capacity requirements and leaves room for growth. Next, look at each system's measurements to make sure it can fit in your designated space without getting in the way of any other equipment. You'll also need to pick a busway system that can scale with your facility and integrate with monitoring systems. This helps prepare your power distribution system for the future. The last thing you want is to purchase a busway system only to learn it isn't going to meet the needs of your facility.

Not Sure Which Busway is Right for You? We Can Help.

Choosing the ideal busway system for your facility can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. While this guide is a good starting point to cobble a system together, every facility deserves a unique, professional solution.



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