

Flexible Angled Trough Wire Distribution From nVent HOFFMAN



AMERICAN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' MEMPHIS TEAM GAINS BIG SAVINGS AND MORALE BOOST

Location: Southaven, MS

Situation: Outfit the electrical room of a major metropolitan hospital to accommodate four power sources

Solution: Angled Trough

Results: Ease of installation helped save an entire day's worth of work

SITUATION

It's a given for electrical contractors – the faster and more reliably you can get a job done, the better.

"These days, everything's about time – money is time," says Buddy Riley, a general foreman and electrician with American Electrical Contractors, Inc. (AEC), in Memphis, Tenn. "Anything you can do in the way of material that expedites the install, it's well worth the time. If you're scared to try anything different, you'll get left behind."

Faced with outfitting the electrical room of a major metropolitan hospital in Southaven, Miss., he and his team needed a solution that could accommodate four power sources – critical emergency, normal power, life safety emergency and equipment emergency – all running alongside one another within a tight space.

"It's the nature of business – electric rooms are not revenue producing, so they are designed to take up as little room as possible," Riley explains. "Also, because of the four different sources coming out of the electric room to service these rooms, we needed the raceways to be installed as pull points in two or three different directions, remaining independent of one another."

The project team of 12 briefly considered using standard wireway, but knew the cover location of these limited the directional choices. Then, they learned about the new flexible wire distribution solution from nVent HOFFMAN, the Angled Trough.

Created for use in wire distribution, junctions and terminations in a variety of indoor commercial applications, including above and below the panel, the Angled Trough's patented design eliminates the need for costly 90-degree conduit bends, making it a time and cost saving solution. It also frees up valuable real estate on the wall, simplifies mounting and assembly.

"The old days of doing a job a certain way because that's the way you always did it, they're over," says Randy Gant, an estimator with American Electrical Contractors on the hospital project. "Everybody's looking for a better way to accomplish it. If you can find a way to make your job a little faster and a little easier, you have to give it a chance. You can't be scared to try something different."

SOLUTION

The team embraced the Angled Trough and also relied on HOFFMAN's standard pull boxes and wireway for other parts of the building. Because the panel boards in the electrical room were 20 inches wide, the team needed to cut the standard links, which measure 18 or 24 inches, to match. Despite this step, everything went smoothly, including the learning curve of using a new product, which they used as a pull point, and the usually difficult task of pulling branch circuit wires.

"Honestly, the benefit is two-fold: It improves our bottom line and with the ease of installation, it's an attitude changer."



“The angle of the opening really made it easy to pull our wires out,” Riley says. “We were able to come out of the front of the trough or out of the back. The way we set it up, they were very easy installations and very fast. The whole set up was very, very nice. The Angled Trough allowed us to do a lot in a little space – and it saved us a lot of time.”

RESULTS

Overall, the entire team experienced the benefit the Angled Trough’s flexibility provided to what could have been a very complex installation.

“Everyone is very pleased with the product,” Riley adds. “We’ve had several compliments on how the electrical room has turned out. The guys seemed to be very pleased with them, doing the installation. The customer is very happy with them. It’s clean and looks really good in there. This was our first experience with them. We would absolutely use the Angled Trough again for any installation in any electric room. The flexibility is well worth using it if you can. It’s a great product.”

In addition to the ease of installation, the Angled Trough helped AEC save an entire day’s worth of work, according to Gant, adding with a chuckle: “That means more shrimp at the Christmas party this year. Honestly, the benefit is two-fold: It improves our bottom line and with the ease of installation, it’s an attitude changer. This is hard work out there, and if we can make anybody’s life any easier and accomplish the same results, why wouldn’t you do that?”



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