



Tech Tips with Ronald Wallace

Our Cabling Expert, Ron, has searched far and wide to bring you the best and most informative facts for your cabling needs. This month, Ron researched factoring in cable slack.

Factoring in Cable Slack

“When installing cable, always include slack loops (service loops) at both ends to accommodate future changes in the structured cabling system” (Leviton.com).

How much slack?

“Always include slack in length calculations to ensure that the permanent link does not exceed 295ft. (90 m). The ideal amount of cable slack will depend on the size and layout of the connecting hardware at the telecommunications room (TR), enclosure (TE), or outlet (TO)” (Leviton.com).



The recommended amount of slack:

- At the TR or TE is 10 ft. (3 m)
- In the ceiling above the TO is 3.28 ft. (1 m)

Recommended slack after termination in the TO is:

- 1 ft. (0.3 m)
- 3.28 ft. (1 m) for optical fiber cable

“Excessive looping can cause poor electrical and optical performance, and slack loops should not be stored in bundled loops. For best practices, cable slack should be stored in an extended loop or figure eight configuration to alleviate cable stress” (Leviton.com).

Resource:

http://www.leviton.com/OA_HTML/SectionDisplay.jsp?section=47536&minisite=10251