

VOLTAGE DROP CHART

WHAT IS VOLTAGE DROP?

Voltage drop is defined as the amount of voltage loss that occurs through all or part of a circuit due resistance. Wires, electrical components and virtually anything carrying current will always inherent resistance to current flow.

It's important to consider voltage drop when specifying an LED array system (ex. LED tape light, modules, etc.) as the LED driver (power supply) is generally installed in a remote location aside from the luminaire. This requires specifying the proper wire gauge (AWM) or thickness of wire to allow current to flow properly through varying distances from the LED driver to luminaire. Specifying the incorrect wire gauge can lead to a variety of problems including flicker, shift in brightness or shift in CCT (Correlated Color Temperature) across long runs of LED tape light.

Example: 12V Voltage Drop & Wire Length Distance Chart

WIRE GAUGE	10 W .83 A	20 W 1.7 A	30 W 2.5 A	40 W 3.3 A	50 W 2.1 A	60 W 4.2 A
18 AWG	34 ft.	17 ft.	11 ft.	8 ft.	6 ft.	5 ft.
16 AWG	54 ft.	27 ft.	18 ft.	13 ft.	10 ft.	9 ft.
14 AWG	86 ft.	43 ft.	29 ft.	21 ft.	17 ft.	14 ft.
12 AWG	134 ft.	68 ft.	45 ft.	34 ft.	27 ft.	22 ft.
10 AWG	199 ft.	99 ft.	66 ft.	49 ft.	39 ft.	33 ft.

- 1 Calculate Total Load:** A 16.4 ft. spool of BLAZE is 47.2 watts. Round up to the nearest load of 50 watts.
- 2 Find Distance from Driver to Load:** Let's assume the distance is 25 ft. from the driver to the beginning of the LED load. Round up to the nearest distance of 27 ft.
- 3 Choose Wire Gauge:** It's recommended to install 12 AWG wire between the driver and luminaire to eliminate voltage drop.

12V Voltage Drop & Wire Length Distance Chart (3% Drop or 11.64V)*

WIRE GAUGE	10 W .83 A	20 W 1.7 A	30 W 2.5 A	40 W 3.3 A	50 W 2.1 A	60 W 4.2 A
18 AWG	34 ft.	17 ft.	11 ft.	8 ft.	6 ft.	5 ft.
16 AWG	54 ft.	27 ft.	18 ft.	13 ft.	10 ft.	9 ft.
14 AWG	86 ft.	43 ft.	29 ft.	21 ft.	17 ft.	14 ft.
12 AWG	134 ft.	68 ft.	45 ft.	34 ft.	27 ft.	22 ft.
10 AWG	199 ft.	99 ft.	66 ft.	49 ft.	39 ft.	33 ft.

24V Voltage Drop & Wire Length Distance Chart (3% Drop or 23.28V)*

WIRE GAUGE	10 W .42 A	20 W .83 A	30 W 1.3 A	40 W 1.7 A	50 W 2.1 A	60 W 2.5 A	70 W 2.9 A	80 W 3.3 A	100 W 4.2 A
18 AWG	134 ft.	68 ft.	45 ft.	33 ft.	27 ft.	22 ft.	19 ft.	17 ft.	14 ft.
16 AWG	215 ft.	109 ft.	72 ft.	54 ft.	43 ft.	36 ft.	31 ft.	27 ft.	22 ft.
14 AWG	345 ft.	174 ft.	115 ft.	86 ft.	69 ft.	57 ft.	49 ft.	43 ft.	36 ft.
12 AWG	539 ft.	272 ft.	181 ft.	135 ft.	108 ft.	90 ft.	77 ft.	68 ft.	56 ft.
10 AWG	784 ft.	397 ft.	263 ft.	197 ft.	158 ft.	131 ft.	112 ft.	98 ft.	82 ft.

*These tables provide general guidelines for determining Wire Gauge based on total load and distance From LED driver to beginning of luminaire.