

10 GREAT RULES FOR INSTALLING NETWORK CABLING

Here is a simple guide in what to look out for and what to ask your cabling technician.

Use a professional who can translate your business' needs into a practical, efficient, effective and futureproof solution. Designing the network is the critical step.

Make sure every network cable is labelled on both ends. Trial and error testing costs time, and time costs money. It is much faster and easier to read a label.

Do not terminate on the cheap. Use quality terminations and skilled technicians. Cables that lose their connections after a few wiggles mean lost productivity and increased service or repair cost.

Test each cable and test it right. Use a quality electronic tester and only accept 100% passes. This will save having to comeback and redo poorly tested cables.

Keep cables the exact length you need. No more, and no less. Cables that are too long are inefficient and invite tangles. Cables that are too short place pressure on the connectors and inputs.

Colour code groups of cables if necessary, but only if it serves a purpose. If your cable groups serve different purposes and quick group identification has merits, use colour coded cables for each purpose. If this is not required, stick to one colour.

Use quality conduit for tomorrow's network Use quality conduit and think about what you want the network to do in years to come. Buying cheap cable that barely does the job means you may need to re-cable sooner rather than later.

Make the server room design cable-friendly. You do not want the server rack miles away from where the cables enter the room. You do not want to have the cables hang down from a ceiling tile. And you do not want to have the server rack and cables come out near doors.

Separate network cables and power cables. Keep power cables and network cables away from each other as network signals can be affected by electric / magnetic frequencies.

Keep network cables cool. Servers get warm but so can cables. Laying them in insulated areas helps.