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Recommended wire lengths for various power loads

When an electric current flows through a wire there is a drop in voltage due to the resistance of the wire. The voltage drop is found from Ohm's Law: $E=IR$, or **Voltage Drop = Wire Resistance x Amps of Current**.

The wire length recommendations below represent a 10% voltage drop in a 24 VAC or VDC circuit for various wire gauges and maximum currents. The voltage drop is linear, therefore cutting the wire length in half would result in a 5% voltage drop rather than a 10% voltage drop. The currents in the two tables represent the various models of power supplies and voltage converters available from BAPI.

Wire length recommendations in Table 1 are based on a wire temperature of 70 °F. If the wire is run in a portion of the building where temperatures can increase to 140 °F, such as an unventilated attic, then decrease the recommended wire length by 5%, as shown in Table 2.

The minimum wire gauge is determined by the maximum worst-case load. When in doubt, use the next larger size wire. All wiring must comply with the National Electric Code (NEC) and local codes.

Table 1: Recommended wire lengths at 70 °F and below (10% maximum drop in voltage)

Wire gauge	Ω/1000 ft (305 M) @ 70°F	Distance @ 75 mA	Distance @ 100 mA	Distance @ 350 mA	Distance @ 1.5 Amp	Distance @ 3 Amps
22	16.8	1905 ft (581 M)	1429 ft (435 M)	408 ft (124 M)	95 ft (29 M)	48 ft (15 M)
20	10.5	3048 ft (929 M)	2286 ft (697 M)	653 ft (199 M)	152 ft (46 M)	76 ft (23 M)
18	6.6	4848 ft (1478 M)	3636 ft (1109 M)	1039 ft (317 M)	242 ft (74 M)	121 ft (37 M)
16	4.2	7619 ft (2322 M)	5714 ft (1742 M)	1633 ft (498 M)	381 ft (116 M)	190 ft (58 M)

Table 2: Recommended wire lengths above 70 °F (10% maximum drop in voltage)

Wire gauge	Ω/1000 ft (305 M) @ 70°F	Distance @ 75 mA	Distance @ 100 mA	Distance @ 350 mA	Distance @ 1.5 Amp	Distance @ 3 Amps
22	16.8	1810 ft (522 M)	1357 ft (414 M)	388 ft (118 M)	90 ft (27 M)	45 ft (14 M)
20	10.5	2895 ft (882 M)	2171 ft (662 M)	620 ft (189 M)	145 ft (44 M)	72 ft (22 M)
18	6.6	4606 ft (1404 M)	3455 ft (1053 M)	987 ft (301 M)	230 ft (70 M)	115 ft (35 M)
16	4.2	7238 ft (2206 M)	5429 ft (1655 M)	1551 ft (473 M)	362 ft (110 M)	181 ft (55 M)

If you have any additional questions, please contact your BAPI representative.