WIRE-IT

STRUCTURED CABLING

The Pre-Wire Planning Checklist

A step-by-step guide for new construction, renovations, and office build-outs.

A free resource from Wire-It | Omaha, NE

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Why Pre-Wiring Saves Thousands

Running cable after drywall is up costs 3-5x more than pre-wiring during the stud phase. This checklist ensures every data drop, camera location, and access point is planned before walls close up.

Phase 1: Planning (Before Construction)

- Floor plan reviewed with IT consultant and general contractor
- Data drop locations identified for every workstation, printer, and shared device
- Wi-Fi access point locations determined by heat map or density calculation
- Security camera locations marked on blueprints (interior and exterior)
- Access control points identified (doors, gates, elevators)
- Network rack location(s) selected with adequate power, cooling, and clearance
- Cable pathway routes planned (conduit, J-hooks, cable tray)
- Cable type specified: Cat6A minimum for all copper; fiber for backbone
- PoE power budget calculated for all powered devices
- Dedicated electrical circuits planned for network racks and UPS

Phase 2: Rough-In (During Stud Phase)

- All low-voltage boxes installed at correct heights and locations
- Cable pulled with proper bend radius and no kinks
- Plenum-rated cable used in air-handling spaces
- Cable runs labeled at both ends with unique identifiers
- Conduit installed for outdoor and underground runs
- Fire-stop penetrations planned for rated walls and floors
- Slack loops left at each termination point for future rework

Phase 3: Trim-Out and Testing

- All cables terminated to patch panels and wall plates
- Every cable run tested and certified with a Fluke or equivalent tester
- As-built documentation delivered with cable maps and test results
- Network equipment installed, configured, and tested
- Wi-Fi coverage verified with walk-test
- Camera views verified and adjusted
- Client walkthrough and handoff completed

Wire-It Tip: Engage your low-voltage contractor at the same time as your electrician. Waiting until after framing starts is how $15,000 drywall mistakes happen.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Plan your build with Wire-It. Get a free consultation.

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