Installation Manual
Safe Walk Inside Slab Heat
Cables & Mats
6W per linear foot cable
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1. Safe Walk Thermal Storage Heating System

The Safe Walk Thermal Storage Heating System consists of heating cables installed in the foundation of a building either in the concrete slab, or in the sand bed below the concrete slab. Control of the heating cables is achieved via the Safe Walk thermostat. A separate magnetic contactor and GFCI are required for current loads above 16A.

The principle of thermal storage heating consists of heating a concrete slab. One of the economic benefits of Elec-Trace Safe Walk is that it can make effective use of off-peak electricity pricing. The slab is thus charged with heat which then gently radiates to the building above throughout the day, providing a comfortable, efficient and reliable heat source.

Benefits of the Safe Walk thermal storage are numerous over other heating methods, and include:

- Lower capital and operating costs
- Easy and flexible installation combined with a single point connection.
- Reclaimed interior floor space (no furnace/boiler required)
- Decorating freedom (no heating registers to keep clear)
- Silent, safe, and efficient operation
- No cold spots
- Energy efficiency
- Reduced dust and allergens
- Higher degree of comfort.

Versatile and easy to install the Elec-Trace Safe Walk thermal storage system is the optimal way to heat your residential, commercial or industrial building.

CAUTION!
Elec-Trace Safe Walk is a heating system usually intended to be the sole source of heat in the building.
Elec-Trace strongly recommends consulting with a building engineer, architect or qualified professional to ensure that the Elec-Trace Safe Walk thermal storage system selected will be suitable for your intended application.

2. Safe Walk Mats/Cables Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cable Construction</td>
<td>Twin conductor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated Voltage (SW Mats/Cables)</td>
<td>120V, 240V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output (SW Cables):</td>
<td>6W/ft (20W/m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output (SW Mats):</td>
<td>20W/sq.ft (215W/m²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating Element Size (SW Cables):</td>
<td>55 ’ (16.8m) to 680’ (207.3 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating Element Size (SW Mats):</td>
<td>12.5’ (3.8 m) – 117.5’ (35.8 m) long x 2’ (0.6m) wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bending radius:</td>
<td>1.5” (38mm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable Diameter:</td>
<td>1/4” (6.5mm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conductor Insulation:</td>
<td>Fluoropolymer and XLPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outer Insulation:</td>
<td>PVC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. rated Temp.:</td>
<td>220°F (105°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min. Installation Temp.:</td>
<td>40°F (5°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold lead</td>
<td>10ft (3m) length</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Measuring the resistance

**WARNING:** Remember to measure resistance.

The Elec-Trace Mouth monitor shown at right will constantly monitor the heating wire during the entire installation process. If the wire is cut or damaged during installation, this device sounds an alarm. The Elec-Trace Mouth will prevent burying a damaged wire below hardened concrete.

Using a digital Ohmmeter, the resistance should be measured between the black and white conductors. Compare the measured resistance to the resistance listed on the product label (on the power lead).

Also, measure the resistance between the black and ground wires, and between the white and ground wires to test the insulation resistance. Both should have infinite resistance. If available, Elec-Trace recommends using a megger for this test with a voltage setting of up to 2500V.
Record the resistance on your warranty card. Documenting the resistance at each stage of the installation is required for warranty purposes. If the resistances do not match the expected values, the cable may need to be damaged and need repair. Contact your Elec-Trace representative for a repair kit.

While not required, you may also want to measure the resistance of the floor sensor. It should be approximately 12kΩ at room temperature.

4. GENERAL NOTES

Read before beginning foundation!

- The installation shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and national and local electrical codes. The installation shall be in accordance with Part 426, American National Standard Institute / National Fire Protection Association (ANSI/NFPA70), National Electrical Code (NEC) and Canadian Electrical Code (CEC), Part 1. You must use a ground fault protection device (GFCI) or a Residual Current Device (RCD).

- All local codes concerning buildings, electrical installations etc. must be adhered to regardless of instructions provided in this manual. If these regulations are in direct conflict with instructions stated herein, please contact the Elec-Trace Electrical Heating Division.

- It is important that this equipment is only installed by qualified electricians who are familiar with the proper sizing, installation, construction and operation of electric heating cable systems and the hazards involved. The Safe Walk system is only designed for installation in concrete or sand applications.

- Metal structures or materials used for the support of or on which the Elec-Trace Safe Walk is installed must be grounded in accordance with CSA Standard C22.1, Section 10 and the NEC.

- It is recommended to install the Elec-Trace Safe Walk heating cables/mat with a controller that contains an integrated temperature limiter;

- Remember to check that the supply voltage matches the voltage required for your particular Elec-Trace Safe Walk product;

- Extreme care must be used to ensure the Safe Walk cables are not damaged when using sharp tools, wheelbarrows, heavy machinery, shovels, rakes, or other implements. Avoid walking on the cables or mats during installation;

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUNDATION

- Never cut the heating cable;

- Do not install the Elec-Trace Safe Walk cables in such a manner that two heating cables touch, cross or overlap;

- Measure, verify and record the actual resistance throughout the installation process:
  1. Out of the box
  2. After installation
  3. After laying the sand bed (for sand bed installation)
  4. After the concrete slab is poured (but not set)
  5. After connecting thermostat and/or contactors

Record these values in the warranty card. Failure to do so will void the warranty;

- The Elec-Trace Safe Walk thermal storage heating system is most effective in single story buildings, with tiled or stone or concrete floors. If carpet, wood or other flooring materials are to be used, please consult with Elec-Trace Electrical Heating Division.
• The Safe Walk mat or Safe Walk cable must be embedded in mortar or mortar mixture, concrete, sand or similar material. Ensure no air pockets exist in the concrete or sand. This can damage to the cable.

• The perimeter of the heated area should be insulated to 4ft below grade with a minimum of 2in of rigid, closed cell foam insulation (styrofoam) or equivalent suitable for in-ground installation. Foamed urethane or polystyrene are not acceptable moisture reduced its insulation properties.

• Ensure that all sharp stones and debris are removed from the area where the heating cables are going to be installed.

• Make sure the cable is not subjected to excessive tension or strain, especially at the heating cable to power lead slice. It should not cross an expansion joint when installed in concrete. For two or more slabs, use of separate cables in each slab is recommended.

• At low temperatures, the heating cable stiffens and may be difficult to work with. To overcome this, connect the cable to the mains for a brief period of time. Ensure the cable is fully rolled out when this is done.

• A minimum of 12in (30 cm) should exist between the cables and the perimeter of the foundation, and obstructions such as drains, conduits, and structural members.

• There should be a minimum of 2in (5 cm) of concrete or sand above and below the heating cables.

• Allow the concrete to set for at least 30 days before the heating cables are turned on.

• There should not be any moving groundwater in the building area. Natural moisture in the soil is acceptable. If in doubt, contact Elec-Trace Electric Heating Division.

• Please consult the Elec-Trace Electrical Heating Division for any other questions, concerns or advice.

5. General Safe Walk Installation Guidelines

5.1 Free Cable and Cable Strapping
Should the Elec-Trace cable strapping be used for the Safe Walk cable, follow the instructions below for ease of installation.

![Instructions](image)

1. Secure the Elec-Trace cable strapping to the ground surface.
2. Place the SW cable.
3. Clip the SW cable in place.

5.2 Installing the heating cable
The Safe Walk cable must be laid out with even spacing over the entire area to be heated. To ensure an accurate and easy method of installing the Safe Walk cable it is recommended to use Elec-Trace cable strapping. The strapping should be laid perpendicular to the direction the cable will be unrolled. Space the strapping 3ft (90cm) apart. Secure the heating cable to the cable strapping at the correct center-to-center distance. Do not secure the cable too
tightly as this may damage the cable.
If rebar or wire mesh is available, the cable strapping is not required. The heating cable can be attached directly to the rebar or wire mesh using tie wraps.

5.3 Center-to-center (C-C) distance
To determine the approximate c-c distance with Safe Walk cables, the following formula below can be used, or consult with the engineer responsible for the building construction. To determine the

\[
\text{Cable Length (ft)} = \frac{\text{Power (W)}}{6}
\]

Since the length will not exactly match a Elec-Trace Safe Walk cable, select an appropriate combination of cables. Then proceed to calculate the c-c distance:

\[
c - c \text{ (in)} = \frac{\text{Area (ft}^2\text{)} \times 12}{\text{Cable Length (ft)}}
\]

5.4 General Safe Walk Mat Installation Guidelines
Planning
It is recommended to sketch a plan of the layout for the heating system installation. Mat location, sensor placement, junction boxes, conduits and the location of drains and other obstructions should be noted.

Mat Alterations
The Safe Walk heating mats can be altered to accommodate drains, obstructions or bends in the layout. By carefully cutting the mat tape, many patterns and designs can be created. The figure below illustrates this.

**WARNING:** DO NOT CUT THE HEATING CABLE.

6. Elec-Trace Safe Walk Typical Installation Diagram
7. Elec-Trace Safe Walk Installation in Concrete Slab - Step by Step

STEP 1: PLAN YOUR LAYOUT
Make a sketch of the area to be covered with heating Safe Walk cables/mats. Determine the location of fixtures such as drains, pipes, electrical conduits, structural members. Remember to keep a distance of 12in (30cm) around such obstacles. All obstacles that shall be in the concrete slab should be installed prior to Elec-Trace Safe Walk installation to avoid damaging the cable.

You should also plan the location of the thermostats, floor sensors locations and their conduit’s location. The start of cables/mats should be as close as possible to the thermostat’s final placement. For guidelines on cable or mat installation, see page 3 or 5 of this manual.

STEP 2: INSTALLING THE FLOOR SENSOR AND CONDUIT
A floor sensor for high temperature protection must be installed in a rigid conduit. The conduit protects sensor and
facilitates its replacement in the unlikely event of failure.
The sensor and the conduit may be installed in connection with the actual construction work and connected at a later date. Please observe the following:

1. Ensure that the conduit is sealed before the concrete is poured.
2. The conduit must be positioned between the heating cables. This is usually at approximately the mid-point of the concrete slab.
3. Elec-Trace recommends to keep the conduit as short as possible and to minimize the number of bends in the conduit. This will ease the installation of the sensor.
4. Place the sensor inside the tube until it reaches the end of the conduit.
5. The sensor and conduit should be placed within 3in to 6in of the heating cables and with at least 2in of concrete or sand above and below.
6. The floor sensor should be installed at least 3ft (1m) into the heated area.
7. The floor sensor has a standard 10ft (3m) lead that may be extended with 20 AWG wire.

STEP 3: MEASURE THE RESISTANCE OF THE HEATING CABLE
Using a digital ohm-meter, measure the resistance of the Safe Walk cable. Compare the measured value with the resistance listed on the label of the power lead. See page 2 for details.

Remember to record the measured resistances on the warranty card. Documenting the resistance at each stage of the installation is required for warranty purposes.

STEP 4: INSTALLING THE SAFE WALK CABLE/MAT
Install the cable/mat. The cable and mat is usually installed attached to the rebar or wire mesh of the foundation. For details on this, see page 3 and 5 of this manual. For cable installation, you may need to install the cable strapping before installing the Safe Walk cable. The cables should be approximately at the midpoint of the slab, but in all cases, it is recommended to have at least 2” of concrete above and below the cables.
The power lead to heating junction and at least 12in (30 cm) of the power lead must be embedded in the mass material. The remainder of the power lead should be in a conduit that extends to the thermostat or contactor. The power lead may be extended if required.
Measure the resistance once again as outlined in step 3, and record the information on the warranty card.

TIP: Elec-Trace recommends taking a picture of the cable/mat layout and conduit placement during installation. This can help in the unlikely case that the cables/mats need repairs and for warranty claims.

STEP 5: POUR THE CONCRETE SLAB
Pour the concrete slab. Ensure that the contractors are careful not to damage the cable with tools, heavy machinery, etc. Once the slab is poured but concrete is still wet, measure the resistance once again as outlined in step 3, and record the information on the warranty card.
It is not recommended to power the cables/mats for until the concrete has cured (approximately 30 days). Check with the concrete manufacturer for exact curing times. Doing so can affect both the integrity of the slab, and the subsequent proper operation of the Safe Walk cables/mats.

STEP 6: CONNECT POWER SUPPLY AND THERMOSTAT
The connection of the Safe Walk thermostat must be done by a qualified electrician familiar with heating cables and in accordance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC).
Remember to properly ground the heating cable braid.
If this is not already done, the sensor should be installed in the conduit. Remember that the sensor should reach the
sealed end of the conduit. Connect the thermostat and sensor according to the wiring diagram in appendix A. 
A final resistance reading of the cables should be carried out as discussed in step 3 and the measured values recorded on the warranty card.

STEP 7: RECORD INFORMATION AND AFFIX LABELS
• Ensure that all resistances measured in steps 3 to 6 are recorded on the warranty card.
• The eight digit product code found on the Safe Walk cable/mat power lead must be recorded on the warranty certificate.
• Install the electrical panel label at the electrical panel, indicating the location of the cable.
• Install the Warning label in a visible area of the floor, for the duration of the construction.
It is also recommended that the label be kept in a suitable location on a permanent basis.

STEP 8: ENJOY THE COMFORT OF Elec-Trace Safe Walk
The Safe Walk thermal storage heating system is now ready to use. Increase the temperature gradually and adjust it until it reaches a level that suits your personal preferences.
Note that it may take several hours for the thermal mass to heat up the first time the system is powered, or after extended periods of inactivity.

8. Elec-Trace Safe Walk Installation in Sand Bed - Step by Step

STEP 1: PLAN YOUR LAYOUT
Make a sketch of the area to be covered with heating Safe Walk cables/mats. Determine the location of fixtures such as drains, pipes, electrical conduits, structural members. Remember to keep a distance of 12in (30cm) around such obstacles. All obstacles that shall be in the concrete slab should be installed prior to Elec-Trace Safe Walk installation to avoid damaging the cable.
You should also plan the location of the thermostats, floor sensors locations and their conduit’s location. The start of cables/mats should be as close as possible to the thermostat’s final placement. For guidelines on cable or mat installation, see page 3 or 5 of this manual.

STEP 2: STARTING THE SAND BED
Ensure that the ground below the sand bed is well compacted, free of organic materials, and generally suitable for a stable for laying a suitable foundation. Proceed to fill the area with washed masonry sand. The sand should be free of organic material, stones, debris or any other object that could damage the cable. Moisten, and compact the sand. Raise the sand to a level of 12in below the bottom of the concrete slab, or as specified by the engineer. The layer of sand should be at least 2in thick.

STEP 3: INSTALLING THE FLOOR SENSOR AND CONDUIT
A floor sensor for high temperature protection must be installed in a rigid conduit. The conduit protects sensor and facilitates its replacement in the unlikely event of failure.

The sensor and the conduit may be installed in connection with the actual construction work and connected at a later date. Please observe the following:
1. Ensure that the conduit is sealed before the sand is laid.
2. The conduit must be positioned between the heating cables. This is usually a 12in below the bottom of the concrete slab.
3. Elec-Trace recommends to keep the conduit as short as possible and to minimize the number of bends in the conduit. This will ease the installation of the sensor.
4. Place the sensor inside the tube until it reaches the end of the conduit.
5. The sensor and conduit should be placed within 3in to 6in of the heating cables and with at least 2in of concrete or sand above and below.
6. The floor sensor should be installed at least 3ft (1m) into the heated area.
7. The floor sensor has a standard 10ft (3m) lead that may be extended with 20 AWG wire.

**STEP 4: MEASURE THE RESISTANCE OF THE HEATING CABLE**

Using a digital ohm-meter, measure the resistance of the Safe Walk cable. Compare the measured value with the resistance listed on the label of the power lead. See page 2 for details.

*Remember to record the measured resistances on the warranty card. Documenting the resistance at each stage of the installation is required for warranty purposes.*

**STEP 5: INSTALLING THE SAFE WALK CABLE/MAT**

Install the Safe Walk cable/mat according to the sketch made in step 1. The cable/mat should be secured to prevent movement in subsequent steps. For details, see page 3 and 5 of this manual. For cable installation, you may need to install the cable strapping before installing the Safe Walk cable.

The power lead to heating junction and at least 12in (30 cm) of the power lead must be embedded in the mass material. The remainder of the power lead should be in a conduit that extends to the thermostat or contactor. The power lead may be extended if required.

Measure the resistance once again as outlined in step 4, and record the information on the warranty card.

*TIP:* Elec-Trace recommends taking a picture of the cable/mat layout and conduit placement during installation. This can help in the unlikely case that the cables/mats need repairs and for warranty claims.

**STEP 6: FINISHING THE SAND BED**

Continue raising the sand bed with washed masonry sand, to approximately 1in below the base of the future concrete slab. Once again sand should be free of organic material, stones, debris or any other object that could damage the Safe Walk cables. Gently wet the compacted sand until completely saturated with water.

Ensure that the contractors are careful not to damage the cable with tools, heavy machinery, etc.

Install a vapor barrier over the sand bed with 6” in of overlap for adjacent sheets. Finish the sand bed with an additional 1in of compacted sand. This will help to prevent movement of the vapor barrier when during subsequent steps.

Measure the resistance once again as outlined in step 4, and record the information on the warranty card.

It is not recommended to power the cable at this time.

**STEP 7: POUR THE CONCRETE SLAB**

Pour the concrete slab. Ensure that the contractors are careful not to damage the cable with tools, heavy machinery,
etc. Once the slab is poured but concrete is still wet, measure the resistance once again as outlined in step 4, and record the information on the warranty card.

It is not recommended to power the cables/mats for until the concrete has cured (approximately 30 days). Check with the concrete manufacturer for exact curing times. Doing so can affect both the integrity of the slab, and the subsequent proper operation of the Safe Walk cables/mats.

**STEP 8: CONNECT POWER SUPPLY AND THERMOSTAT**

The connection of the Safe Walk thermostat must be done by a qualified electrician familiar with heating cables and in accordance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC). Remember to properly ground the heating cable braid.

If this is not already done, the sensor should be installed in the conduit. Remember that the sensor should reach the sealed end of the conduit. Connect the thermostat and sensor according to the wiring diagram in appendix A.

A final resistance reading of the cables should be carried out as discussed in step 3 and the measured values recorded on the warranty card.

**STEP 9: RECORD INFORMATION AND AFFIX LABELS**

- Ensure that all resistances measured in steps 4 to 8 are recorded on the warranty card.
- The eight digit product code found on the Safe Walk cable/mat power lead must be recorded on the warranty certificate.
- Install the electrical panel label at the electrical panel, indicating the location of the cable.
- Install the Warning label in a visible area of the floor, for the duration of the construction.
  It is also recommended that the label be kept in a suitable location on a permanent basis.

**STEP 10: ENJOY THE COMFORT OF SAFE WALK**

The Safe Walk thermal storage heating system is now ready to use. Increase the temperature gradually and adjust it until it reaches a level that suits your personal preferences.

Note that it may take several hours for the thermal mass to heat up the first time the system is powered, or after extended periods of inactivity.

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**EXTENDED WARRANTY**

For a period of two (2) years from the date of purchase Elec-Trace warrants that the Elec-Trace Safe Walk cable/mat is free from defects in material, design and workmanship. The extended
warranty is only valid if the warranty certificate has been properly completed and mailed, and the installation is in accordance with the installation instructions.

The defective Elec-Trace Safe Walk cable has to be inspected by or submitted to Elec-Trace or an authorized Elec-Trace Safe Walk dealer. Failure to comply with all of the foregoing will void this extended warranty. Elec-Trace will, when the customer has documented that a defect in the Elec-Trace Safe Walk was present at the date of delivery, repair or supply a new Elec-Trace Safe Walk at Elec-Trace’ option. All claims shall be made within the extended warranty period.

Elec-Trace shall not be liable for any claims made later than ten years from date of purchase.

Elec-Trace shall not be liable for any consequential and secondary costs or damages linked to the defect or replacement of the Elec-Trace Safe Walk. Elec-Trace will be liable for any costs related to the dismantling of defective product and the installation of a new product; however such liability is limited to the amount of five (5) times the initial product costs for each damage/case.

THE FOREGOING WARRANTY IS EXPRESSLY IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ON THE PART OF ELEC-TRACE. ELEC-TRACE DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ELEC-TRACE NEITHER ASSUMES NOR AUTHORIZES ANY OTHER PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION TO ASSUME FOR IT ANY OTHER LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OR PRODUCT. ELEC-TRACE SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS, LOSS OF PROFIT, LOSSES ON GOODS IN STORE, OR THE LIKE WHICH MIGHT ARISE OUT OF THE FAILURE OF THE EQUIPMENT DELIVERED, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE CAUSE (INCLUDING FAULTY MANUFACTURE).

How to claim this warranty
Contact the company’s Customer Service department and provide the following information:
1) Nature of the manufacturing defect
2) Date of purchase and, if already installed, date of installation
3) If installed, name of electrician and flooring installer
4) Resistance readings taken by installer
5) Proof of purchase and serial number from product label

Our Customer Service department will provide you with an authorization number and advise you on the next steps to complete your warranty claim.

Disclaimer:
This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have some legal rights which may vary from state to state or province to province. Elec-Trace hereby disclaims, and it is as a condition of the sale, that there are no implied warranties. Some states and provinces do not allow limitations on an implied warranty so the above limitation may not apply to you.

Elec-Trace can accept no responsibility for possible errors in catalogues, brochures, other printed materials, and website information. Elec-Trace reserves the right to alter its products without notice. This also applies to products already on order provided that such alteration can be made without subsequent changes being necessary in specifications already agreed upon. All trademarks in this material are property of the respective companies. All rights reserved.

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APPENDIX A: TYPICAL ELEC-TRACE SAFE WALK Wiring Diagram
TYPICAL SINGLE PHASE WIRING

Thermostat ≤ 16 Amps

- Control voltage (same as contactor coil)
  - Phase
  - Phase
  - L1(L)
  - L2(N)
- Load
- Sensor
  - To floor temperature sensor (No polarity)

Contactor

- Power supply (see product label on power lead)
  - L1
  - L2
- Coil
  - Load

NOTES:
1. Installation of a ground fault protection device is strongly recommended. Please check local code for requirements.
2. If the total current draw is 18A or less, and the main voltage is 208/240V then the contactor can be omitted. Connection the maticable power lead directly to the load terminals of the thermostat.
3. Only one floor sensor is required per thermostat.

TYPICAL THREE PHASE WIRING

Thermostat ≤ 16 Amps

- Control voltage (same as contactor coil)
  - Phase
  - Phase
  - L1(L)
  - L2(N)
- Load
- Sensor
  - To floor temperature sensor (No polarity)

Contactor

- Power supply (see product label on power lead)
  - L1
  - L2
  - Lc
  - Lm
- Coil
  - Load

NOTES:
1. Installation of a ground fault protection device is strongly recommended. Please check local code for requirements.
2. A minimum of 3 mats/cables is required for this wiring. The mats on each segment should have similar current draws to if a balanced load is desired.
3. Only one floor sensor is required per thermostat.