# PROTECT YOUR BOAT WITH THE CORRECT SIZE WIRE AND FUSE

U.S. Coast Guard and other regulatory agencies require all circuits, except the starting circuit, to be protected with a circuit breaker or a fuse. For 24V DC Systems divide distance by 2 or consult the Circuit Wizard at www.circuitwizard.bluesea.com

## **Choose the Correct Wire**

Locate the **CURRENT FLOW IN AMPS** of your circuit along the top of the chart to the right.

### Select the CIRCUIT TYPE.

- Non-critical circuits with 10% allowable voltage drop include: general lighting, windlasses, bait pumps, general appliances
- Critical circuits with 3% allowable voltage drop include: panel main feeders, bilge blowers, electronics, navigation lights
- Find the CIRCUIT LENGTH along the left side of the chart.
- The circuit length is the length of the negative conductor added to the length of the positive conductor.
- Calculations are based on 105°C wire. For wire rated at 80°C or lower, use the circuit length row below the actual circuit length, which represents the next longest distance. Example: A 20A load with 3% voltage drop and a circuit length of 15 ft would be 10 AWG for 105°C wire and 8 AWG for wire rated at 80°C or lower.
- Intersect the CURRENT FLOW IN AMPS with CIRCUIT LENGTH to identify the correct wire size. Example: A windlass rated 80A is 25 ft from the battery. The circuit length is the total length of the positive and negative conductor added together, which in this example is 50 ft / 15.2 M The circuit type is 'non-critical', and the correct wire size is 4 AWG /107 mm^2.

	CIRCUIT TYPE			CURRENT FLOW IN AMPS																
	10% voltage drop Non Critical		3% voltage drop Critical		5A	10A	15A	20A	25A	30A	40A	50A	60A	70A	80A	90A	100A	120A	150A	200A
	0 to 20 ft	0 to 6.1 M	0 to 6 ft	0 to 1.8 M		16 AWG	14 AWG	14 AWG	12 AWG	10	8	6 AWG	6 AWG	6 AWG		4 AWG	4 AWG			
ı	30 ft	9.1 M	10 ft	3.0 M	16 AWG	14 AWG	12 AWG	12 AWG	10 AWG	AWG	8 AWG	AWG	AWG	AWG	4 AWG	AWG	AWG	2 AWG	1 AWG	210
	50 ft	15.2 M	15 ft	4.6 M		12 AWG	10 AWG	10 AWG	8 AWG	8 AWG	6		4 AWG	4 AWG		2	2			2 0 AWG
	65 ft	19.8 M	20 ft	6.1 M	14 AWG		AWG	8 AWG		6	AWG	4	AWG	2	2	AWG	AWG	1 AWG	O AWG	
Į.	80 ft	24.4 M	25 ft	7.6 M	12	10 AWG	8 AWG		6 AWG	AWG	4	AWG	2	AWG	AWG	1 AWG	1 AWG	0 AWG	2 0 AWG	3 0 AWG
E	100 ft	30.5 M	30 ft	9.1 M	AWG		AWG	6 AWG		4	AWG	2	AWG	1 AWG	1 AWG	0 AWG	0 AWG	2 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	410
Z	130 ft	39.6 M	40 ft	12.2 M		8 AWG			4	AWG	2	AWG	1 AWG	O AWG	O AWG	2 0 AWG	2 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	410	4 0 AWG
E	165 ft	50.3 M	50 ft	15.2 M	10 AWG		6 AWG	4	4 AWG	2	AWG	1 AWG	0 AWG	2 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	410	4 0 AWG	
E	200 ft	61.0 M	60 ft	18.3 M		6		AWG		AWG	1 AWG	0 AWG	2 0 AWG	310	AWG		4 0 AWG	4 0 AWG		
CIRCUI			70 ft	21.3 M		6 AWG	4		2 AWG	1		210		3 0 AWG	410	4 0 AWG				
4			80 ft	24.4 M	8 AWG		AWG	2		AWG	AWG	2 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	410	4 0 AWG					
ľ			90 ft	27.4 M				AWG	1		210	310		4 0 AWG						
			100 ft	30.5 M		4			AWG	0 AWG	2 0 AWG	3 0 AWG	4 0 AWG							
			110 ft	33.5 M	6	AWG	2 AWG													
			120 ft	36.6 M	AWG			1 AWG	0 AWG	210	3 0 AWG	4 0 AWG								
			130 ft	39.6 M		2 AWG				2 0 AWG										

## **STEP 2** Choose the Correct Fuse and Fuse Amperage

Choose a Fuse from the list on the top of the chart to the right by following along the line of the AWG wire size from Step 1. Appropriate fuses will have a gray bar that intersects the line.

The appropriate Fuse Amperage will be found in one of the four gray bars below the selected fuse type.

- Single Wire, Outside Engine Room = First column dark gray bar
- Single Wire, Inside Engine Room = First column light gray bar
- Bundled Wire, Outside Engine Room = Second column dark gray bar
- Bundled Wire, Inside Engine Room = Second column light gray bar
- Calculations are based on 105°C wire. For wire rated at 80°C or lower, use the fuse amperage for the next smaller wire size. Example: For a 4 AWG single wire outside an engine room, the fuse amperage is 150A and 125A for 80 °C degree rated wire.

Possible fuse amperages for a circuit can fall between a range of maximum and minimum fuse amperages. The procedure above calculates the maximum fuse amperage which reduces nuisance blows but may offer less protection than a lower amperage fuse. The minimum fuse amperage is calculated by multiplying the current flow in amps by 125%.

If the product instructions specify fuse amperage, use the value if it is under the maximum amperage found in the above procedure. If the specified fuse amperage is over the maximum suggested, move down the column and choose the wire size that intersects with the specified fuse amperage.

	E N D Outside Engine Room	MDL®	(Arrent )	ATO® or ATC© Fuse	®	MAXI" Fuse		AMI® or MII Fuse	DI®		MR TERM Fus	/INAL			MEGA® or AMG Fuse		CLAS Fuse	S T	ANL® Fuse	
	Inside Engine Room	.25A t	o 30A	1A to	30A	30A t	o 80A		to 200		30	A to	300 <i>A</i>	1	100A t	o 300A	225A	to 400A	35A to	400A
		SINGLE WIRE	BUNDLED WIRES	SINGLE WIRE	BUNDLED WIRES	SINGLE WIRE	BUNDLED WIRES	SINGLE WIRE	BUNE		SING		BUNDLI		SINGLE WIRE	BUNDLED WIRES	SINGLE WIRE	BUNDLED WIRES	SINGLE WIRE	BUNDLED WIRES
	16 AWG	25A 20A	20A 15A	25A 20A	20A 15A															
_	14 AWG	30A	25A 20A	30A	25A 20A	30A 30A		30A 30	A		30A	30A								
_	12 AWG		30A 25A		30A 25A	50A 40A	30A	50A 40	A 30A		50A	40A	30A						35A	
ш	10 AWG					60A 50A	40A 40A	60A 50	40A	40A	60A	50A	40A 4	0A					50A 40A	40A 35A
N	8 AWG					80A 70A	60A 50A	80A 70	A 60A	50A	80A	70A	60A 5	0A					80A 60A	50A 40A
S	6 AWG						80A 70A	125A-100	A 80A	70A	125A	100A	80A 7	0A	125A 100A				130A 100A	70A 60A
Щ	4														150A- <b>125A</b>	125A 100	Δ		150A-130A	1004 804
H	AWG 2												-		200A- <b>175</b> A				200A- <b>175A</b>	
	AWG																			
<u>ت</u>	AWG							200							250A- <b>200A</b>				250A- <b>200A</b>	
\ \{\bar{\} \}	0 AWG								200A	175A	300A	250A+2	200A 17	75A	300A 250A	200A 175	A 300A 250	Α	300A-250A	200A 175A
	2 0 AWG											300A	225A 20	DOA	300A	225A 200	350A 300	A 225A	350A 300A	225A 200A
	3 0 AWG											2	250A <mark>22</mark>	25A		250A <b>225</b>	400A 350	A 250A 225A	400A 350A	250A 225A
	4 0 AWG											3	300A <b>2</b> 5	50A		300A <b>25</b> 0	400A 400	A 300A 250A	400A 400A	300A <mark>-250A</mark> -

## **STEP 3** Choose a Fuse Holder

Using the same colored headings as in the steps above, follow the columns down to find fuse holders or fuse blocks that meet your specific requirements.

## Consider environmental factors:

Ignition protection is required where flammable vapors may accumulate.

### **Example: Engine room and propane locker**

Consult American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) E-11.5.3 for Ignition Protection

Ingress protection protects fuses from spray, washdown, and humidity.

IP66-protected against powerful water jets

Ignition protection
Ingress protection

Ignition protection and Ingress protection

### Decide between an in-line fuse holder or a fuse block:

- In-line fuse holders are compact and hold a single low-amperage fuse.
- Fuse blocks mount to a solid surface and may hold a single fuse or multiple fuses.

Although this process uses information from ABYC E-11 to recommend wire size and circuit protection, it may not cover all of the unique characteristics that may exist on a boat. If you have specific questions about your installation please consult an ABYC certified installer.

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