

WireStix™ Product Guide

Design basis

WireStix is designed for **modern insulated copper and aluminum building wire**, including **THHN/THHN-2** and **XHHW/XHHW-2** (sometimes marked **XLPE/XPLE**). While conductor **gauge** is standardized, **insulation outside diameter (OD)** varies by manufacturer and product line. WireStix measures **insulation OD**, not bare conductor size.

Slot sizing was developed using a combination of **NEC 2020 reference tables** and published OD data from major manufacturers (including Southwire and CerroWire), with a small allowance for clearance. Some specialty products may exceed typical OD and may not fit the expected slot.

Slot depth is approximately **half the conductor OD**. Because **solid and stranded** constructions can carry different insulation profiles, the **WS-SM** stick includes separate gauge sets for solid and stranded conductors.

Use tips

- **Don't force it.** WireStix uses a close tolerance. If a conductor doesn't slide in with light pressure, **it's not that size**. Forcing can crack the tool. The material is UV/heat resistant, but it is **not a wedge**—the wire will win.
- **Measure a straight section.** Bends and tight curves can distort insulation and produce a false reading. This is especially common on **large service entrance conductors**.
- **Use the case.** The center hole can be used with a lanyard (e.g., parachute cord), but the available case provides the best protection in a tool bag or truck.



Be sure to download the free companion mobile app: WireStix

- Ampacity sizing for basic and advanced use cases
- Conduit fill calculations
- Available for iOS and Android devices