

Wire Gauge Size Chart: The Complete Guide for DIY Projects

Ever wonder what those numbers on electrical wire mean? This chart breaks down common American Wire Gauge (AWG) sizes, showing you the physical diameter, electrical resistance, and how much current each gauge can safely handle for typical DIY wiring jobs. Picking the right wire size is crucial for safety and performance—using a wire too small for its current load can cause overheating and fire risk.

AWG GAUGE ↕	DIAMETER (IN) ↕	DIAMETER (MM) ↕	RESISTANCE (Ω/1000 FT) ↕	MAX AMPS (CHASSIS WIRING) ↕
4/0 (0000)	0.46	11.684	0.049	300
3/0 (000)	0.4096	10.404	0.0618	225
2/0 (00)	0.3648	9.266	0.0779	195
1/0 (0)	0.3249	8.252	0.0983	150
1	0.2893	7.348	0.1239	120
2	0.2576	6.543	0.1563	95
3	0.2294	5.827	0.197	85
4	0.2043	5.189	0.2485	70
6	0.162	4.115	0.3951	55
8	0.1285	3.264	0.6282	40
10	0.1019	2.588	0.9989	30
12	0.0808	2.053	1.588	25
14	0.0641	1.628	2.525	20
16	0.0508	1.291	4.016	15
18	0.0403	1.024	6.385	10
20	0.032	0.812	10.15	7.5
22	0.0253	0.644	16.14	5
24	0.0201	0.511	25.67	3.5
26	0.0159	0.405	40.81	2.5
28	0.0126	0.321	64.9	1.5
30	0.01	0.255	103.2	0.86

21 rows