



# **HEAT TRACE PLANNING CHECKLIST FOR FACILITY MANAGERS**

***Ensure your system is safe, efficient, and reliable year-round.***

## **1. ASSESS YOUR FACILITY'S VULNERABLE POINTS**

- Identify exposed piping in outdoor or unheated areas
- Map all critical process lines requiring temperature maintenance
- Review past freeze incidents or flow disruptions for risk trends
- Note materials sensitive to temperature (e.g., chocolate, oils, chemicals)
- Identify environmental hazards (e.g., explosive areas, washdown zones)

## **2. DEFINE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Determine whether goal is freeze protection, temp stabilization, snow melt, or process temp control
- Check required temperature ranges for each system
- Consider hygiene/sanitary standards (FDA, food-grade, etc.)
- Determine tolerance for temp fluctuation

## **3. GATHER SYSTEM SPECS**

- Pipe lengths, diameters, and materials
- Ambient temperature conditions (min/max operating ranges)
- Existing insulation or lagging condition
- Voltage availability at trace locations and overall power requirements
- Area classifications and regulatory requirements

## 4. SELECT APPROPRIATE HEAT TRACE COMPONENTS

- Choose the correct heating cable type (self-regulating, constant wattage, etc.)
- Include temperature control and glass tape, if needed (mechanical or electronic thermostats)
- Specify junction boxes and termination kits
- Add monitoring or alarm systems plus warning labels for safety and reliability

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## 5. PLAN FOR INSTALLATION AND INTEGRATION

- Coordinate with contractors or in-house maintenance teams
- Confirm power source locations and cable routing
- Review installation guidelines from the manufacturer (e.g., Nelson Electric)
- Determine control panel or building automation tie-ins if needed

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## 6. ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- Verify all components meet required certifications (UL, CSA, ATEX, etc.)
- Maintain as-built drawings and cable test results
- Register warranty and keep record of maintenance schedule

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## 7. PARTNER WITH THE RIGHT SUPPLIER

- Work with MCE for:
  - ✓ Application review and specification help
  - ✓ Quick-ship inventory and bundled kits
  - ✓ Technical support from design to install
  - ✓ Experience with complex or regulated environments

**Pro Tip:**

***Early planning improves system performance, reduces installation risk, and ensures temperature-sensitive processes stay protected – no matter the conditions.***