

# Quick-start Installation Guide: eXapath™ In-Wall Cable Pathway System- Copyright©2010 Homepath Products LLC

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## PREPARATION

### 1. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Read all instructions before installation.
- Always wear proper eye safety protection.
- Make sure saw blades and drills are sharp
- Observe proper installation practices and codes
- Use eXapath conduits for low voltage only

### 2. RECOMMENDED TOOLS

- Tape measure/Pencil
- Power drill//phillips and flat head screwdriver
- 1 - 7/8" self-feed bit (2" also acceptable)
- 3/4" to 1" brad point drill
- 2 - 1/8" hole saw
- drywall saw (as needed)

### 3. CHECK SHIPPING CONTENTS

Caution: before drilling, check to make sure all installation locations are clear of nails, pipes, wiring or other hazards.

### 4. MARK LOCATION

- Install two to three eXapath systems per wall in each room..
- Mark the center line of the drill point on the top framing plate and bottom framing shoe, as required, using the built-in T-square and marking features located on the eXapath mounting brackets.
  - Drill 1 - 7/8" diameter holes on the pencil marks (about 3" from the finished side of the framed wall).
  - Install a mounting bracket with

Tip: when possible, bias the installation toward one side of the stud cavity to leave room for unforeseen accessories (speakers, panels, etc.) but always leave a minimum of 3" between eXapath and stud.

pipe (EXBP44- 21) in the shoe/plate where pass-through is planned and secure it at the rear flange with a mounting screw as shown.

- Install the bracket with socket (EXTP44-21), even with the face of the wall and centered on the pencil mark.
- Make sure both brackets are installed with the living hinge flanges facing into the room.

Caution: be careful to avoid over-tightening the screws to avoid damaging the mounting brackets.



### 5. INSTALL eXapath Conduit

- eXapath conduits are provided in pre-cut 8 foot (91") and 9 foot (103") lengths for easy installation and minimal waste.
- Conduits can be cut to length on site if necessary using chop saw or hand saw.
- Measure the finished eXapath conduit length using the distance from flat section of

top bracket to the flat section of the bottom bracket.

- Subtract 1/8" to 3/16" for ease of installation and to allow for possible wood framing shrinkage.
- Place the conduit into the top bracket rear flange. Place the bottom end of the conduit into the bottom bracket rear flange. Snap the conduit into place by pushing it in at the top and bottom brackets. A definite "snap" sound will be heard at both brackets when the conduit is properly secured.

Caution: install only low voltage or fiber optic cables within main eXapath chamber. Local codes and regulations apply.



Tip: If necessary, cut the conduit to length using a standard miter saw, PVC cutting handsaw or reciprocating saw. Make accurate and square cuts.

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- Rotate the flange, with the living hinge, into place at the bottom bracket and snap it into the conduit. Use a mounting screw to secure the bottom flange in place.

(it is acceptable if the temporary living hinge separates, it will still function as intended to fasten the conduit in place)



Tip: for best results install the eXpath system after mechanicals and plumbing but before electrical rough-in and insulation.



Following the same procedure, secure the top bracket flange as shown above.

## 6. CAP/PLUG UNUSED CONDUITS

- The exposed pipe of the eXapath system may be covered when not used for cabling by installing a common 1 - 1/4" diameter PVC cap or by filling the end of the pipe with permanently pliable firestop putty (provided by Hilti, 3M and Nelson)



Tip: capping/plugging the pipe prevents the convection of air within the eXapath system and complements the insulation housed within the walls.

## 7. INSTALL NAIL PLATES AS NEEDED

- Steel nail plates are provided in the contractor kits (1 per conduit) to protect line voltage wires that may be required to run horizontally across the conduits. The nail plates will prevent penetration by from sheetrock screws or nails.
- Using a 3/4" paddle drill, drill two holes in the front sides of the conduits to allow power cables to run across the conduits. Pass the power cable through the holes and snap in a nail plate over the power cable.
- Additional nail plates (EXNPSG-00) can be purchased separately.



## 8. OUTLET INSTALLATION (EXBXSG-21)

- Using a 2 - 1/8" hole saw, create a port in the eXapath conduit by placing the drill at the appropriate height and utilize the built-in v-groove as a pilot hole. *(to avoid potentially hazardous drill kick-back, operate drill in reverse mode (counterclockwise))*
- Once hole is created snap the outlet in place.



Caution: when drilling conduit to create a port for an outlet, use a 2 1/8" hole saw and **OPERATE DRILL IN REVERSE ROTATION** (counterclockwise) to avoid potentially hazardous kick-back.

## 9. Fire safety and air convection (energy conservation)

- Check with local code officials for guidance on acceptable firestopping.
- It is customary to add commonly available firestopping caulk between the exterior of the pipe and any shoe, subfloor or plate that it penetrates. (3M, HILTI, Nelson products)
- For an eXapath system that remains empty (no cables) it is customary to either add a common 1 1/4" PVC cap or plug the end of the pipe with commonly available firestopping putty. (3M, HILTI, Nelson products)
- Caulking and plugging also act as effective air barriers to **minimize convection** within the eXapath system to **supplement the insulation within the walls.**