



considerations when choosing switchgear

For some projects, choosing between air insulated switchgear and gas insulated switchgear can come down to:

- Size
- Simplicity
- Environmental impacts
- Safety
- Reliability
- Cost of ownership

GAS INSULATED SWITCHGEAR VS. AIR INSULATED SWITCHGEAR

GAS INSULATED		AIR INSULATED
Footprint can be at least 30-40% smaller than AIS due to decreased air gaps between phase conductors	SIZE	36 (W) x 95 (H) x 92 (D) <i>(estimated footprint of 15kV AIS in inches)</i>
Specific cable terminations are required to maintain proper insulation with reduced air clearances in cable connection compartment	SIMPLICITY	Simpler construction Fewer design constraints No gas handling required and no special training needed
Better designed for harsh environments and seismic areas	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	No pollution potential
Arc resistant, self-contained Live parts not accessible	SAFETY	Arc resistant, vented
Vital components protected from the elements Sealed for life, which means little to no maintenance	MAINTENANCE	Vital components are exposed to the elements Significantly easier to repair if needed
Higher upfront cost Lower building costs due to smaller footprint	COST OF OWNERSHIP	Lower upfront cost Higher building costs due to the larger footprint

