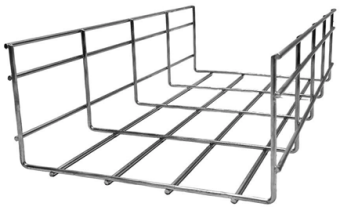
Price of fiber optic cable for network cabling



Overview

Main cost drivers include cable grade (indoor vs outdoor, armoured), distance, and labor for trenching, splicing, and termination.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic cable prices range from $0. 09 to $6 per foot depending on type, strand count, and installation requirements. Material CostsSingle-mode fiber typically costs $0.

09 to $1. 52 per foot for retail purchases, with wholesale bulk prices as low as $0. 09 per foot.

Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4) ranges from $1. 50 to $6 per foot, reflecting higher manufacturing complexity and wider cores. Armored cables for harsh environments or direct burial can cost $0.

50 to $6. 50 per foot, depending on construction and protective layers. Low-strand cables like 1-core FTTH drop cables may cost around $0.

13 per foot, while high-count backbone cables (e.g., 288 strands) can reach $6 per foot.

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Installation Costs

Indoor runs are generally less expensive, with typical rates of $0. 60 to $3. 00 per foot, including labor, trenching, and termination.

Outdoor or underground installations are costlier, ranging from $5,000 to $20,000 per mile for underground projects and $40,000 to $60,000 per mile for aerial installations. A standard commercial installation with 100–200 network drops can cost $15,000 to $30,000.

Factors Affecting Price

Fiber Type and Strand Count: Higher strand counts increase costs proportionally; a 12-strand cable is cheaper than a 24-strand or 96-strand cable. Cable Construction: Indoor riser-rated cables are cheaper than plenum-rated or armored cables. Outdoor cables with UV-resistant jackets or direct-burial ratings cost more.

Pre-

Terminated Assemblies: Factory-terminated cables reduce on-site labor but increase material costs by 20–30%. Environmental Ratings: LSZH jackets, flame-retardant, or armored designs add 25–50% to the base cable cost. Regional and Project Factors: Labor rates, permits, and terrain can increase total project costs by 5–25% depending on location.

Summary

For budgeting purposes, basic indoor single-mode fiber can cost under $1 per foot, while high-count, armored, or outdoor multimode fiber can exceed $6 per foot. Total project costs depend heavily on installation complexity, distance, and environmental requirements, with commercial projects ranging from $2,500 to over $14,000 for typical runs of 1,000–5,000 feet.

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