Price list for underground fiber optic cables



Overview

Discover the cost of fiber optic cable in this pricing guide. Learn material prices, installation factors, and what impacts total project costs overall.

Key Takeaways

Underground fiber optic cable costs range from $0. 09 to $6 per foot for materials, with installation adding $5,000 to $80,000 per mile depending on complexity and location. Material CostsSingle-mode fiber: $0.

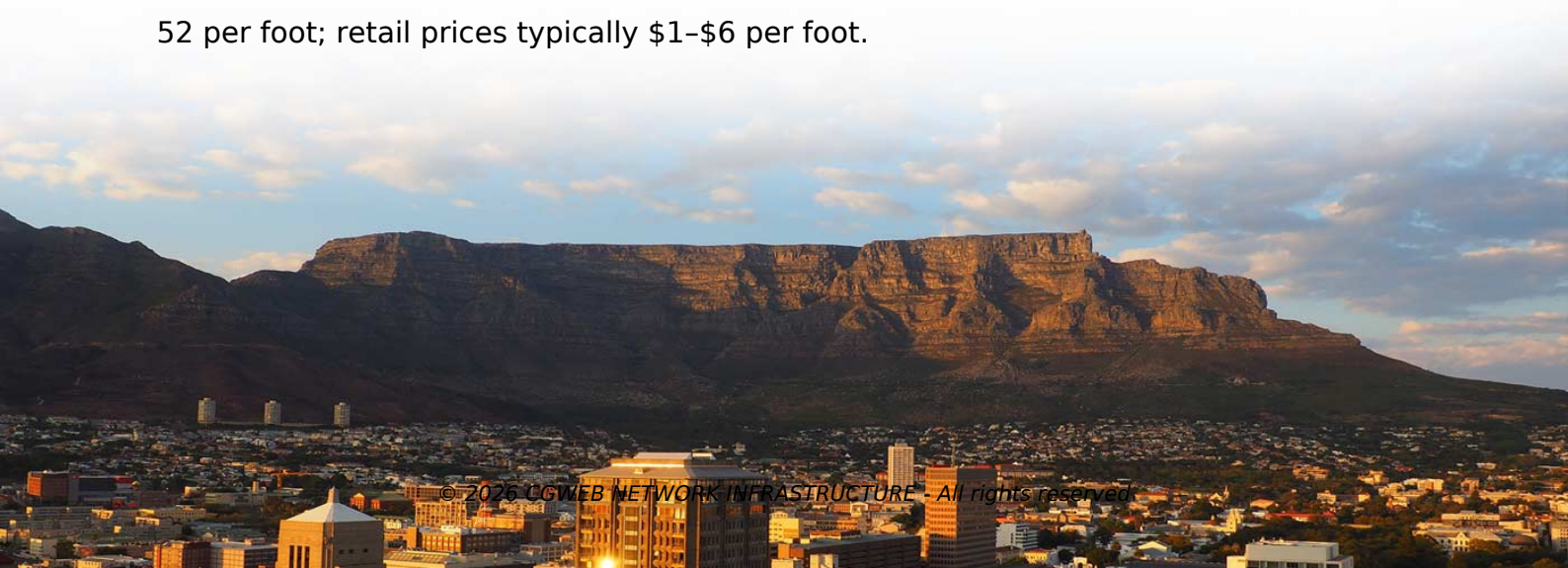
10–$0. 50 per foot for the cable itself; higher strand counts increase costs proportionally (e.g., 12-strand ~$0. 50/ft, 24-strand ~$1.

00/ft). Multi-mode fiber: $0. 30–$1.

00 per foot; suitable for shorter distances. Armored cables: $0. 50–$5 per foot; designed for harsh environments and direct burial.

Pre-terminated assemblies and patch cables: Higher costs due to factory termination, varying by connector type and fiber count. Wholesale bulk purchases: $0. 09–$1.

52 per foot; retail prices typically $1–$6 per foot.



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Installation Costs

Labor and termination: $1–$6 per linear foot; complex installations can reach $7–$12 per foot. Trenching or bore work: Adds $7–$50 per foot depending on soil conditions; rocky terrain or high water tables can double costs. Conduit systems: $2–$4 per foot; HDPE conduits are slightly more expensive than PVC but more durable.

Handholes and access vaults: $200–$800 each depending on size. Urban underground projects: $60,000–$80,000 per mile due to complex permitting and restoration. Rural or basic projects: $5,000–$20,000 per mile.

Project Examples

Basic: 800 ft of single-mode fiber in a residential area, minor restoration, no conduit beyond surface mount; total ~$4,800–$6,200. Mid-range: 2,000 ft mixed terrain, underground conduit, one splice closure, testing included; total ~$15,000–$22,000. Premium: 5,000 ft urban route, complex trenching, multiple splices, extensive testing, permits, and restoration; total ~$60,000–$110,000.

Factors Affecting Costs

Fiber type and strand count: More strands and single-mode fiber increase costs. Installation method: Direct burial vs conduit; conduit allows future cable additions but increases upfront cost. Terrain and soil conditions: Rocky or wet areas increase labor and equipment costs.

Urban vs rural deployment: Urban areas require permits, traffic control, and safety measures, raising costs. Distance to existing infrastructure: Longer runs from existing fiber increase material and labor costs.

Summary

For underground fiber optic projects, material costs range from $0. 09 to $6 per foot, while installation costs vary widely based on project complexity, terrain, and location, from $5,000 per mile in simple rural deployments to $80,000 per mile in dense urban areas. Armored cables, conduit systems, and higher strand counts increase both material and labor costs, while pre-terminated assemblies can reduce field splicing time but add upfront expense.

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