Price of Fiber Optic Multimode Cable

Overview

Buyers typically pay a range for fiber optic cable per foot depending on fiber type, jacket, and shielding, plus installation considerations.

Key Takeaways

Multimode fiber optic cable typically costs between $0. 30 and $1. 00 per foot for the cable itself, with installed costs ranging from $0.

80 to $7. 00 per foot depending on installation type and cable specifications.

Cable Material Costs

The raw cost of multimode fiber optic cable varies by strand count, core type, and jacket construction. Standard pricing ranges include: Single strands: around $0. 30–$0.

50 per foot12-strand cables: approximately $0. 50 per foot24-strand cables: up to $1. 00 per footHigh-count backbone cables (e.g., 288 strands) can reach $6 per foot or more.

Multimode fiber (OM4 or OM5) is generally 25% more expensive than OM4 for the same strand count, and plenum-rated cables cost about 40% more than riser-rated cables due to fire-safety materials. Bulk purchases, such as 10,000-foot reels, can reduce per-foot costs by roughly 20% compared to smaller 1,000-foot reels.

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Installation Costs

Installed costs depend heavily on the environment and method: Indoor plenum ceiling/riser: $0. 80–$1. 70 per footOpen trench (lawn/field): $0.

90–$1. 80 per footAerial (utility pole): $1. 20–$2.

50 per footDirectional boring (road crossing, driveway): $3. 00–$7. 00 per foot.

Labor, splicing, termination, and testing typically dominate the installed price. For example, a 2,000-foot OM4 multimode run in an office building may cost $0. 60 per foot for cable, with total project costs including labor reaching $3,000–$5,000.

Factors Affecting Price

Several factors influence multimode fiber pricing: Fiber type and strand count: More strands increase cost proportionallyCable construction: Armored or direct-burial cables cost more ($0. 50–$5 per foot)Jacket material: LSZH (low-smoke zero halogen) adds ~$0. 25 per footInstallation environment: Underground or directional boring is more expensive than indoor or aerial runsConnectorization: Pre-terminated assemblies and patch cables cost more due to factory termination.

Summary

For budgeting purposes, expect multimode fiber optic cable to cost $0. 30–$1. 00 per foot for materials, with installed costs ranging from $0.

80 to $7. 00 per foot depending on installation complexity, cable type, and strand count. Bulk purchases, indoor vs outdoor installation, and cable ratings significantly affect the final price.

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