Price of purchasing optical fiber cable



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

Fiber optic cable prices in 2026 range from $0. 09 to $6 per foot depending on type, strand count, and application, with installation costs adding significantly to total project expenses.

Material Costs

The cost of fiber optic cables varies widely based on fiber type, strand count, and construction. For wholesale bulk purchases, prices range from $0. 09 to $1.

52 per foot, while retail prices can be $1 to $6 per foot. A simple 1-core FTTH drop cable costs around $0. 13 per foot, whereas a 288-strand backbone cable can reach $6 per foot or more.

Single-mode fiber typically costs $0. 10 to $0. 50 per foot, and multimode fiber ranges from $0.

30 to $1. 00 per foot. Armored cables for harsh environments or direct burial can cost $0.

50 to $5 per foot.

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Installation and Project Costs

Installation significantly increases total expenses. For example, a 1,000 ft indoor single-mode run may cost $2,650–$3,100, including labor, permits, and accessories, while a 5,000 ft outdoor armored run with multiple splices and professional testing can reach $15,000–$20,000. Labor, trenching, splicing, and termination often account for 60–80% of total project costs.

Pre-terminated cables reduce field labor but have higher upfront material costs.

Market Trends

Global fiber prices fluctuate due to supply-demand dynamics, raw material costs, and regional market conditions. In China, for instance, G. 652D single-mode fiber prices surged from 18 RMB/km in January 2026 due to supply tightening, reflecting broader market trends.

Prices for large-scale infrastructure projects are often negotiated under long-term contracts and may not be publicly disclosed.

Factors Affecting Price

Fiber Type and Strand Count: More strands increase cost proportionally. Cable Construction: Indoor, plenum-rated, outdoor, or armored cables differ in price. Core Material: Glass fiber is more expensive than plastic optical fiber but offers superior performance.

Connector Type and Pre-

Termination: Factory-terminated cables cost more but save labor.

Regional and Project-

Specific Factors: Labor rates, permits, and local regulations can affect total cost.

Summary

For budgeting purposes, expect fiber optic cable material costs from $0. 09 to $6 per foot, with total installed project costs ranging from a few thousand dollars for short indoor runs to $15,000–$20,000 for long outdoor armored installations. Prices vary by fiber type, strand count, construction, and regional market conditions, and labor often dominates the overall cost.

Pre-terminated cables can reduce field labor but increase upfront material expenses.

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Single Mode vs. Multimode Fiber Optic Cables

There are two main types of fiber optic cables: single mode and multimode. Although they can do the same job in some instances, the different construction methods make each of them better

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