

# 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.

## **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.

## Article Content

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Fiber optic cables are praised for their high performance and scalability, while copper cables remain a cost-effective choice, especially for budget-conscious projects and older systems.

### 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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How Do Multimode Fiber Optic Cable Prices.

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