

Fiber Optic Cable Specifications and Prices



Article Overview

Fiber optic cables offer high-speed, long-distance data transmission with varying types, constructions, and prices ranging from \$0.09 to \$6 per foot depending on specifications and installation.

Key Features of Fiber Optic Cables

1. Fiber Type:

- Single-mode fiber (SMF): Designed for long-distance transmission with a small core diameter, lower per-foot cost (\$0.10–\$0.50), but requires more expensive equipment

- Multimode fiber (MMF): Suitable for shorter distances, higher per-foot cost (\$0.30–\$1.00), commonly used in data centers and enterprise networks

2. Fiber Count:

- Cables range from 1-core FTTH drop cables (\$0.13/ft) to 288-strand backbone cables (\$6/ft). Higher strand counts increase cost proportionally

3. Construction and Environmental Rating:

- Indoor riser-rated cables: Lower cost, suitable for vertical runs inside buildings.

- Plenum-rated cables: Designed for air-handling spaces, more expensive.

- Armored cables: Steel tape or FRP armored for harsh environments or direct burial, costing \$0.50–\$5 per foot

- Aerial/self-supporting cables: Designed for outdoor overhead installation, \$0.40–\$1.50 per foot

4. Connectors and Pre-Termination:...

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