

Fiber Optic Cable Well Price Guide



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 costs range from \$0.09 to \$6 per foot for materials, with total installed project costs ranging from a few hundred to over \$14,000 depending on cable type, length, and installation complexity. Material Costs

Single-mode fiber (SMF): \$0.

10–\$0.50 per foot for the cable itself, suitable for long-distance, high-speed links. Multimode fiber (MMF): \$0.

30–\$1.00 per foot, typically used for shorter, high-bandwidth connections. High strand-count cables: A 12-strand cable costs around \$0.

50 per foot, while a 24-strand cable can reach \$1.00 per foot. Specialty cables: Armored or direct-burial cables range from \$0.

50 to \$5 per foot, depending on environmental protection and durability.

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H drop cables: Simple 1-core cables cost approximately \$0.13 per foot, while large backbone cables (e.g., 288 strands) can reach \$6 per foot.



Installation and Project Costs

Indoor runs: A 1,000-foot single-mode indoor installation with minimal terminations may cost \$2,650-\$3,100, including cable, labor, permits, and accessories. Outdoor runs: A 2,000-foot outdoor run with conduit and multiple terminations can cost \$4,940-\$6,120. Premium installations: A 5,000-foot outdoor armored cable with multiple splices, professional testing, and extended warranty may reach \$11,000-\$14,500.

Factors Affecting Price

Cable Type and Fiber Count: Single-mode vs multimode, number of strands, and core material (glass vs plastic) influence cost. Installation Environment: Indoor, aerial, underground, or harsh outdoor conditions affect labor and material requirements. Connectorization and Termination: Pre-terminated assemblies, patch panels, and connector types add to the cost.

Labor and Permits: Trenching, splicing, conduit installation, and local permit fees can significantly increase total project costs. Regional Variations: Urban areas may have higher labor and permit costs, while rural areas may incur higher logistics expenses.

Budgeting Tips

Purchase standard connectors and pre-terminated assemblies to reduce labor costs. Bundle labor with materials and schedule installations during off-peak times to save on project costs. Consider long-term benefits: fiber networks offer 20-30-year lifespans and lower maintenance costs compared to copper networks.

Overall, fiber optic cable pricing varies widely based on cable type, length, installation complexity, and environmental factors, with material costs starting under \$0.10 per foot and full project costs potentially exceeding \$14,000 for large, complex installations.

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