

Price list for single-core optical fiber cables



Overview

Fibre optic cables are network cables that contain one or more transparent optical fibres that are used to carry light.

Key Takeaways

Single-core optical fiber cables typically cost between \$0.09 and \$1.52 per foot, depending on type, construction, and application.

- Single-mode fiber (SMF): \$0.10 to \$0.50 per foot for standard cable; bulk purchases may reduce costs by 20-40% .
- Multimode fiber (MMF): \$0.30 to \$1.00 per foot, with higher-grade OM3/OM4 cables costing more .
- FTTH single-core drop cable: Around \$0.13 per foot .
- Armored or outdoor-rated cables: \$0.50 to \$5 per foot, depending on protective layers and burial requirements .
- High-performance or specialty fibers (e.g., for medical, defense, or aerospace applications) may cost significantly more due to custom specifications and regulatory compliance .

Factors Affecting Price

- Fiber Type and Core Diameter: Single-mode fibers (8-10 μm core) are optimized for long-distance transmission, while multimode fibers (50-62.5 μm core) are suited for shorter distances .

- **Cable Construction:** Indoor riser-rated cables are cheaper than plenum-rated or armored cables designed for harsh environments .
- **Material Quality:** Premium glass fibers (e.g., Corning) offer lower attenuation and higher reliability, increasing cost .
- **Installation Environment:** Underground or trenching installations add labor and permit costs, raising the total per-foot price .
- **Connectorization and Pre-Termination:** Factory-terminated cables or pre-assembled patch cables incur higher costs due to labor and precision requirements .

Example Cost Scenarios

- 500 ft SMF indoor run: Cable \$0.25/ft; total materials \$125; total project including labor \$1,000–\$1,600 .
- 2,000 ft OM4 multimode with conduit: Cable \$0.60/ft; total cable \$1,200; labor \$1,800–\$3,300; total \$3,000–\$5,000 .
- 4,500 ft SMF underground with protective ducting: Cable \$0.90/ft; materials \$4,050; labor \$6,000–\$12,000; permits \$1,000–\$3,000; total \$11,000–\$22,000 .

Expert Tips

- Always consider operating wavelength, installation environment, and future scalability when selecting single-core fiber cables .
- For medical or custom applications, consult manufacturers early to ensure compatibility and regulatory compliance .
- Bulk purchases and standardized cable types can significantly reduce per-foot costs, while specialized fibers or armored cables will increase the price. This pricing overview provides a practical guide for budgeting and selecting single-core optical fiber cables for various applications, from residential FTTH drops to enterprise and industrial networks.

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