Price of disposable optical fiber cable



Overview

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Key Takeaways

Disposable or surplus fiber optic cables typically cost between $0. 09 and $6 per foot, depending on type, fiber count, and condition.

Typical Pricing

Bulk Material Costs: Fiber optic cable materials generally range from $0. 09 to $1. 52 per foot for wholesale bulk purchases, while retail prices can reach $1 to $6 per foot, depending on fiber type, strand count, and jacket construction.

Single-

Core Drop Cables: A simple 1-core FTTH drop cable costs around $0. 13 per foot.

High-

Density Backbone Cables: Large 288-strand optical fiber cables for building backbones can cost $6 per foot or more. Surplus or Disposable Cables: Surplus fiber optic cables are available at discounted rates. For example, some suppliers charge $199 per reel for orders under $1,500, with free shipping for larger orders.

Surplus marketplaces also offer salvage or repurposed cables at competitive prices, often sourced from insurance claims or corporate surpluses.

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Factors Affecting Price

Cable Type: Single-mode fiber is generally cheaper per foot than multimode fiber, but multimode transceivers are less expensive. Installation and Termination: Pre-terminated assemblies or patch cables cost more due to factory termination and connector type. Length and Quantity: Buying in bulk can reduce per-foot costs by 20–40% compared to smaller retail quantities.

Condition: New cables cost more than surplus or salvaged cables, which are suitable for temporary or disposable applications. Application Environment: Outdoor, armored, or industrial-rated cables are priced higher than standard indoor cables.

Summary

For disposable or short-term use, surplus or salvaged fiber optic cables are the most cost-effective option, typically ranging from $0. 09 to $1. 50 per foot for bulk material, or $199 per reel for smaller orders.

Prices increase with fiber count, cable type, and pre-termination. For temporary deployments, surplus cables provide a practical balance between performance and affordability.

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