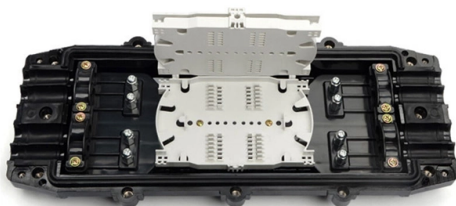


How much does an outgoing optical fiber cable cost



Overview

If purchasing just the cable, it can cost about \$0.20 to \$1 per foot when purchased in bulk, which is usually more than 500 feet.

Key Takeaways

The cost of an outgoing optical fiber cable ranges from approximately \$0.09 to \$6 per foot, depending on fiber type, construction, and installation requirements. Price Range by Cable Type

- Single-mode fiber (OS2): Typically costs \$0.09 to \$1.52 per foot for standard cables, with higher-end or premium brands costing more due to lower attenuation and quality glass .
- Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4): Usually ranges from \$1.50 to \$6 per foot, reflecting the more complex manufacturing and wider core requirements .
- Armored outdoor cables: Add 20-50% to the base cost for protection against environmental hazards, rodents, or accidental damage .
- FTTH drop cables (1-core): Can be as low as \$0.13 per foot, while high-count backbone cables (e.g., 288 strands) can reach \$6 per foot or more .

Factors Affecting Cost

- Fiber Count and Construction: More strands and specialized constructions (loose tube, tight-buffered, armored) increase material costs .



- **Jacket Material and Environmental Rating:** Outdoor-rated PE or UV-resistant jackets cost more than indoor PVC or LSZH jackets .
- **Installation Complexity:** Labor for trenching, splicing, and termination can range from \$0.60 to \$3.00 per foot, depending on terrain and precision required .
- **Pre-terminated Assemblies:** Factory-terminated cables cost 20–30% more but reduce on-site labor and splicing costs, potentially lowering total project expenses .
- **Project Scale and Location:** Urban areas may have higher permit and labor costs, while rural areas may incur additional delivery or logistics expenses .

Example Installation Costs

- **Basic indoor run (1,000 ft single-mode):** Cable \$0.40/ft, labor \$1.00/ft, permits \$150, accessories \$100 → Total ≈ \$2,650–\$3,100 .
- **Mid-range outdoor run (2,000 ft, conduit, 4 terminations):** Cable \$0.70/ft, labor \$1.60/ft, permits \$350, delivery \$120, accessories \$250 → Total ≈ \$4,940–\$6,120 .
- **Premium outdoor run (5,000 ft armored, multiple splices, professional testing):** Cable \$1.00/ft, labor \$3.00/ft, permits \$900, delivery \$350 → Total ≈ \$11,000–\$14,500 .

Tips for Cost Management

- **Bulk Purchasing:** Buying longer cable lengths or full drums can reduce per-foot costs .
- **Evaluate Cable Requirements:** Use high-performance cables only where necessary; simpler cables may suffice for short runs.
- **Plan Installation Efficiently:** Minimize trenching and splicing where possible to reduce labor costs.
- **Compare Suppliers:** Direct manufacturers often offer lower prices than distributors, sometimes saving 20–30% . In summary, the cost of an outgoing optical fiber cable depends heavily on fiber type, cable construction, environmental rating, and installation complexity, with material costs ranging from \$0.09 to \$6 per foot and total project costs varying widely based on length and labor requirements .

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