

Price of Double-Sided Fiber Optic Network Installation



Overview

The average fiber optic cable installation cost ranges from \$1 to \$6 per foot depending on the number of fibers used.

Key Takeaways

Double-sided fiber optic network installation typically costs between \$5,000 and \$80,000 per mile, depending on cable type, installation method, and project complexity.

Material Costs

Fiber optic cable prices vary by type and strand count. Single-mode fiber costs approximately \$0.10 to \$0.50 per foot, while multimode fiber ranges from \$0.30 to \$1.00 per foot. Higher strand counts and armored or plenum-rated cables increase costs, with enterprise-grade 24-strand cables reaching around \$1 per foot and large backbone cables up to \$6 per foot. Pre-terminated assemblies and patch cables are more expensive due to factory termination and connector type considerations.

Installation Costs



Labor and installation typically exceed material costs. Indoor commercial installations range from \$1 to \$6 per linear foot, with complex routing through walls or ceilings increasing rates to \$7–\$12 per foot. For building-to-building or underground installations, costs range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per mile for basic projects, and \$60,000 to \$80,000 per mile in urban areas with complex permitting and trenching requirements . Aerial installations using utility poles cost \$8–\$12 per foot, while underground trenching can reach \$20–\$50 per foot .

Additional Costs

- Fiber drops (connection points): \$250–\$1,000 each, depending on complexity and termination requirements .
- Connectors and transceivers: Prices vary by type and quality; higher-end components improve performance but increase upfront costs .
- Permitting and compliance: Local regulations may add fees, especially for outdoor or public right-of-way installations .

Factors Affecting Total Cost

- Distance to existing infrastructure: Longer runs increase cable and labor costs.
- Installation method: Indoor pathways are cheaper than new conduit or underground trenching.
- Building conditions: Older buildings without existing cable pathways require more labor.
- Fiber type and strand count: Single-mode fiber is preferred for long distances, while multimode is suitable for shorter runs.
- Environmental conditions: Harsh environments may require armored or specialized cables .

Summary

For a double-sided fiber optic network installation, expect material costs of \$0.10–\$6 per foot and installation costs ranging from \$1 to \$50 per foot, depending on complexity. Total project costs for commercial or building-to-building links can range from \$5,000 to \$80,000 per mile, with additional costs for connectors, transceivers, and permits. Planning for efficiency, bundling services, and selecting standard components can help reduce overall expenses .

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