How much does outdoor fiber optic cable cost



Overview

Updated 2026 cost of fiber optic cable per foot. Get material + installation prices, per-foot breakdown for singlemode/multimode, and expert tips to save on your project.

Key Takeaways

Outdoor fiber optic cable typically costs between $0. 70 and $6. 00 per foot, depending on type, strand count, and installation method.

Material Costs

The price of the cable itself varies widely based on fiber type, strand count, and protective features. Single-mode fiber is generally cheaper per foot than multimode, while armored or direct-burial cables designed for harsh outdoor conditions cost more, ranging from $0. 50 to $5 per foot for standard outdoor applications, and up to $6 per foot for high-strand-count or heavily armored cables.

Bulk purchases can reduce per-foot costs by 15–20% for long reels, such as 10,000 ft.

Installation Costs

Installation is a major cost driver. Trenching or directional boring for underground runs can add $0. 90–$7.

00 per foot, depending on terrain and method. Aerial installations on utility poles typically cost $1. 20–$2.

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50 per foot, including permits. Labor for splicing, termination, and testing can range from $1. 00 to $3.

00 per foot, with more complex projects requiring professional crews. Typical Project ExamplesMid-range outdoor run: 2,000 ft with conduit and four terminations may cost $4,940–$6,120 total, including cable, labor, permits, and accessories. Premium outdoor run: 5,000 ft armored cable with multiple splices and professional testing can reach $11,000–$14,500.

Factors Affecting Cost

Fiber type: Single-mode vs multimode; higher strand counts increase cost. Cable construction: Armored, corrugated steel tape, or LSZH jackets add to price. Installation method: Open trench, directional boring, or aerial.

Regional labor and permit costs: Urban areas may be 15–25% higher than national averages, while rural areas may vary ±5–15%. Connectors and terminations: Pre-terminated assemblies cost more than field-terminated cables.

Summary

For a good-quality outdoor fiber optic cable, expect material costs of $0. 70–$6. 00 per foot and installed costs ranging from $2.

50 to $7. 00 per foot depending on complexity and environmental conditions. Budgeting should also account for permits, conduit, splicing, and testing to ensure a reliable, long-lasting installation.

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